

LIGHT

A Bulletin of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

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UNITED NATIONS WEEK

October 17 to 24 has been proclaimed by the Secretariat of the United Nations as *United Nations Week*. October 24, an international holiday, will mark the high spot in the celebration of the organization's fourth birthday.

In the United States nearly one hundred organizations are co-operating to make this week one of the most important in their calendar. Celebrations are being arranged on the basis of community action.

A realistic appraisal shows that the United Nations has already accomplished much. Not only do the member states bring their stubborn problems to the United Nations for solution, but the world's peoples take the UN decisions seriously. The United Nations has carried on fruitful negotiations in such trouble spots as Iran, Indonesia, India, Palestine, and with less success in Greece and Korea. The development of international democratic procedures in the rough and tumble of UN debates continues to be a signal contribution to effective world diplomacy.

In the economic and humanitarian field the various agencies have done increasingly constructive work, many times with dramatic effect. Undernourished and sick children in 12 European countries and China are still receiving food and medicine through the International Children's Emergency Fund, despite the all too meager financial support this agency has received. The International Trade Organization and the several regional economic commissions aim to set up conditions of economic "stability and well-being" by tariff reductions, stimulation of freer world trade, and establishment of general standards for conduct of economic relations among nations. The Food and Agriculture Organization is striving to defeat the prophets of doom who foresee nothing but gradual starvation of all mankind. A program based on suggestions by this Organization covers a period of activity over 25 years, which if followed will double the actual amount of available food. The methods for achieving this end are being carefully studied and new and effective systems are being devised over large areas of the earth's surface.

At this critical time, when the diplo-



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omats often despair of keeping the pace, the people themselves must speak out boldly for peace with justice, through world organization. The churches must make their prophetic voices heard.

The task of organized religion in this field is far from finished—has, in fact, scarcely begun. Should not the churches by their moral and spiritual leadership, guide the people out of the appalling disillusion of the post-war years? Should they not teach us all to practice that patience that is part of the mentality of peace, the patience that knows there are no shortcut solutions to those most seri-

ous problems our era faces? Must they not, during United Nations Week and throughout the year ahead, help the people to develop an invincible will for peace with justice?

This can be religion's contribution to the redemption of our desperately troubled time.

We must have one world or we will have no world at all.

(If you can use films or printed material for a study of the work of the United Nations, write to the office of the Commission. We will be glad to help you.)

THE CHRISTIAN RURAL OVERSEAS PROGRAM

Howard McClain

The Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) is unique in the church life of America. It is a nation-wide gifts-in-kind program, and provides a means through which the rural churches of the nation are working together to a common goal. Also, CROP is a practical way through which different denominations, though differing widely in theological beliefs, are participating in a single program.

Although a new and unusual program in the church life of America, CROP has grown very quickly. In 1948, 2,393 carloads of farm products were contributed. These "Christian Carloads," valued at over six and one-half million dollars, would make up a freight train 21 miles long. While last year there were programs in more than half the states, this year there will be programs in nearly all of the states. It is estimated that last year over 75,000 people volunteered their services in the promotion of this program.

What CROP Is

The purpose of the Christian Rural Overseas Program is to collect farm commodities to be used for relief in war-devastated areas. It is especially important to keep several facts in mind about the program. First, it is a Christian-motivated program, the "texts" for which are to be found in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew. Also, it is a church-sponsored program, both being sponsored by churches in this country and the commodities being distributed by church agencies overseas. Furthermore, it is a rural community program. If it is to be successful, it must combine the endeavors of both farm groups and church groups in a given community. Unlike most programs, it makes its appeal directly to rural folk and asks for what they raise on their own farms—not for cash.

How CROP Operates

The directing policy of the CROP program is made by a cabinet of three persons, one representing each of the parent agencies (Church World Service, Catholic Rural Life, and Lutheran World Relief). All policies must be unanimous before they become effective. In each state there is a committee of representative farm and church leaders. This committee directs the program in the state and selects a director to be responsible for its being carried out. Also, there is a county organization which is responsible for the program's success in the local communities. All of this organizational machinery, however, is for one purpose—to give each farmer in the state an opportunity to contribute from what he has grown to help the needy overseas.

It is thus seen that this program is mainly a collection program. CROP is

responsible for collecting and shipping what is contributed. The distribution of these goods, however, is the responsibility of established church relief agencies, such as Church World Service, the Relief Committee of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and others. The individual designates the church agency he wants to distribute his commodities when he makes the gift.

CROP and Baptists

It is thus seen that CROP supplements what the church agencies are doing; in no way does it overlap previous programs of any denomination. The New Orleans Relief Center of the Southern Baptist Convention has not developed any program for the collection of large quantities of food products. CROP goods, therefore, supplement the materials which are collected through the New Orleans Center.

In a specially prepared statement of the Relief Committee of the Foreign Mission Board, dated May 31, 1949, this responsible Baptist agency has commended CROP to Southern Baptists and indicated that there is a working agreement between CROP and their field staff. Dr. Paul Caudill, Chairman of the Relief Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, has recently returned from Europe, where he has been making sure of Baptist channels to distribute the CROP products. Further Baptist co-operation with CROP is found in Texas, where the State Convention has officially appointed a member on the State CROP Committee. In various other states Baptists individually are widely co-operative. State Directors Ed Holcomb of Mississippi, Herbert Baucom of North Carolina, and Howard McClain of South Carolina are Baptists, the latter two Baptist ministers and Holcomb a former president of a Baptist college. In each state leading Baptists are members of the State Committee. In numerous instances Baptists have taken various types of voluntary responsibility in the program.

In conclusion, we ought to keep in mind Dr. Caudill's recent statement that large numbers of people in Germany, as well as other war areas, are still having difficulty obtaining enough food. Also this statement from a Baptist minister in North Carolina should make us think. "CROP is mainly a farm movement. The farmers will give when encouraged by their pastors. For the sake of those who give, as well as those who receive, and for the sake of our Christ, Baptist preachers should support the Christian Rural Overseas Program."

If four years of schooling can be regarded as near-illiteracy, says a Twentieth Century Fund report, then over 20 per cent of the people in Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico were beneath this level in 1940.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Dr. Hugh A. Brimm, Executive-Sec'y.
Social Service Commission
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Hugh:

Your panel in the April issue of *LIGHT*, entitled "Help Wanted," prompts me to offer the following information from the North Carolina Baptist student activities in race relations.

For three years North Carolina Baptist students have been concerned with extending the ministry of the Baptist Student Union to include the Negro campuses. The State B.S.U. Convention, meeting at High Point on October 31 through November 2, 1947, invited Negro campuses to send messengers. About twenty-five Negro Baptist students attended. There was no segregation of races in any sense throughout the Convention. On Sunday morning they worshiped in the sanctuary with the students and local church members sitting interspersed through the congregation. Two meals were served at the church by a restaurant in High Point with the Negroes eating with us without respect of race. No unfavorable comments came to the pastor nor to me following this Convention.

At the Spring Retreat, meeting at College Park Baptist Church in Greensboro April, 1948, some fifteen to eighteen Negro students were invited and took part in the Retreat with equal privileges as were extended to the White students.

In Gastonia, November, 1948, we had anticipated an interracial State Convention after the pattern of the High Point meeting in 1947. Six days before the Convention date some of the deacons of the church expressed feelings which resulted in the vote to have them segregated if they attended at all. I spent two days travelling to contact six Negro colleges from which students had been invited to the Convention. After discussing the matter with Negro ministers, faculty members, and students, they all said in essence, "We will not ignore your invitation, but we feel that we must decline." I have four letters from Negro students and faculty members stating their reasons why they did not attend the Convention.

In the business session of the 1948 Convention our students, numbering five hundred plus, voted unanimously to have all future state-wide Baptist student meetings on an interracial fellowship basis. They further voted with equal unanimity to provide for at least one Negro student to hold a position on the North Carolina Baptist Student Union's state officers' council. The news-

papers, daily, weekly, and semi-weekly, about thirty in number, covered the Convention on this particular item. We have not received a single letter, telephone call, or newspaper editorial which censured or condemned this student vote.

On April 2 and 3, 1949, the North Carolina Baptist Student Department sponsored an interracial Baptist Student Conference meeting at Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina. More than one hundred students were registered, representing fifteen or more White and Negro colleges. There were about as many white students as there were Negro students. The Shaw cafeteria was made available to us for the meals. Negro homes were opened to entertain Negro messengers. Mr. S. E. Grinstead, Negro pioneer Baptist Student Secretary of Nashville, Tennessee, and Mr. S. I. McKinnon, National Baptist Student President for Negroes, were the guest speakers. During the conference it was decided that a committee should be appointed to pursue the possibility of establishing a Department of Student Work in the General Baptist Convention (Negro) of North Carolina. As a result of this interracial conference and through the work of this committee, plans are being effected to employ a Negro Baptist Student Secretary.

At the State B.S.U. Spring Retreat, meeting at Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, April 22-23, 1949, Mr. William Worley of Shaw University was elected to a position on the B.S.U. state officers council in the capacity of extension vice president.

The 1949 State B.S.U. Convention is scheduled to be held in one of the largest Baptist churches of our state, namely, the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, Dr. Ralph Herring, pastor. The Convention is to be interracial without segregation. I was present in the regular business conference when the vote was cast to invite the interracial Student Convention. About four hundred people voted enthusiastically in favor, and while the vote was not unanimous there was not a dissenting vote nor a critical remark in the discussion of the matter in the business session.

I have gone into some detail to give you the picture of the thing as it has developed under no particular platform and with next to no antagonism here in our state. Perhaps you can boil down and condense this to use in a subsequent issue of LIGHT.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES W. RAY

(Ed. Note: This was too good to "boil down.")

The New York Police Department reports that more than 80 per cent of the serious juvenile delinquents have no religious affiliation for either the offender or his parents.

HERE ARE THE FACTS

RACE

After years of study, research and minute analysis of the facts, the most able historians, sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists in their respective fields have reached an overall conclusion, expressed by Ruth Benedict and Gene Weltfish in *RACES OF MANKIND*, that the peoples of the earth are a single family with a common origin.

Once you go beneath the skin there are no differences of anatomy or bodily structure between various racial groups. There are, for example, exactly the same number of bones in the foot of every normal person in the world. The muscular systems, digestive systems, nervous systems of all people are alike and function in the same manner.

All human blood is the same. There are four basic types of blood, A, B, AB and O. Every one of these types is present in all racial groups.

Skin color is due to the presence of two chemical substances in the skin, carotene which gives a yellow tinge and melanin (which rhymes with "in") gives the brownish color. Everyone, regardless of his race has both of these substances present in his skin (except the albino who lacks all coloring substances, and who appears occasionally among all people.) Your skin color is due to the proportion of these substances, carotene and melanin which you have.

Head size is no index of intelligence. Sir Walter Scott had an unusually small brain while an imbecile had one of the largest human brains on record.

No one race or cultural group can claim superiority on the basis of native accomplishments, or inventive genius. Every group has made its contribution to the total cultural wealth of the world.

Dr. Franz Boas an eminent anthropologist has said, "If we were to select the most intelligent, imaginative, energetic, and emotionally stable third of mankind, all races would be represented."

GAMBLING

According to a recent reliable survey, there are about 50 million men and women in America who indulge in one or more types of gambling.

At least 20 million people play the game of Bingo with monotonous regularity; another 25 million play occasionally.

In 1947 there were 19 million paid admissions to the horse racing tracks in eighteen out of the twenty-four states where they are legalized. These people placed bets that exceeded a billion and a quarter dollars.

At least 10 billion dollars that year was bet illegally through "bookies" and "horse parlors" away from the tracks.

The Federal government collects a \$100 tax from each of the 80,000 legalized gambling houses in America while

at least 150,000 other houses operate illegally and pay no tax.

In New York City alone the pin ball machines take in between 23 and 25 million dollars annually. The annual "take" for the whole country is approximately 2 billion dollars. From one study it has been estimated that promoters of the pin ball racket spend 400 million dollars a year for "protection" to police and other public officials.

ALCOHOL

In America today there are 65 million people over the age of 15 who drink beverage alcohol.

There are 4 million excessive users of alcohol.

At least 12,000 people die each year from chronic alcoholism.

The annual cost to the consumers of alcohol, legal and illegal, exceeds 11 billion dollars. Loss of work due to alcoholism costs American business one billion dollars every year; this does not include the loss in pay to the wage earner.

Since 1933 approximately 40 billion gallons of beverage alcohol have been consumed. For the drinking population (85,000,000) this is a per capita consumption of 600 gallons!

Alcoholics Anonymous have done the most extensive work with alcoholics and their efforts have been perhaps the most effective. Yet to date they have only "recovered" 85,000 alcoholics.

News note: After a tragic accident in a mid-western town the following appeared in the paper: "Parents—keep your children off the streets, the man of distinction is driving."

MARRIAGE AND MORALS

In the past ninety years while the population has increased 251 per cent in America the divorce rate has increased 2000 per cent.

In 1880 one divorce was granted for every twenty marriages; in 1947 one divorce was granted for every four marriages.

In Florida, during the twelve months of 1948 there were 17 divorces for every 21 marriages. In the state of Tennessee during the same period there was one divorce for every two marriages.

A recent study has shown that in the past few years there have been more desertions and mutually agreed-upon separations than divorces.

During one year of the war, Dr. Morris Fishbein estimated that there were 3,000,000 births and 1,000,000 abortions.

Approximately 300,000 illegitimate babies are born each year now in America; of these at least 50,000 are born to young girls still in high school or of high school age.

There are at least 250,000 new cases of syphilis every year in our country

and more than 1,000,000 new cases of gonorrhea. Only about 30 per cent of the latter cases are discovered and treated.

COMPARATIVE NATIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR 1948

Gambling	15,000,000,000
Crime Costs	\$15,000,000,000
Savings and Loan Associations (Assets)	13,200,000,000
Meat	12,400,000,000
Alcoholic Beverages	8,800,000,000
Milk and Dairy Products	8,000,000,000
Accidents	7,200,000,000
Education	5,200,000,000
Advertising	4,300,000,000
Tobacco	4,160,000,000
Bakery Goods	2,417,000,000
Motion Pictures	1,545,000,000
Jewelry	1,379,665,350
Church Contributions	1,340,000,000
Soft Drink Industry—	
Bottled	1,000,000,000
Commercialized Vice	500,000,000
Beauty Parlors and	
Barber Shops	481,271,000
Toys and Novelties	300,000,000
Musical Merchandise	240,000,000

War Costs (World War II, U.S.A.)

\$330,030,463,084
The terrific total of \$330,030,463,084 reckoned as the aggregate cost of World War II to the U.S.A. by official sources in Washington may be viewed in the light of expenditures for alcoholic beverages, for crime, and for gambling, which at the lowest calculation has totaled more than \$300,000,000,000 during the 15 years since Repeal.

—F. D. L. Squires

Alcoholism in Pennsylvania: The Joint State Government Commission in Pennsylvania reports that there are 275,000 Pennsylvanians who are addicted to alcohol and that they cause an annual loss of \$53,000,000 to that state.

From an American Indian: "White man come to America. Indian have all the land; white man have the Bible. Now white man have the land; Indian have the Bible."

CIGARETTES UNLIMITED

Cigarette consumption has set a new high record in the U. S. The tobacco corporations state that the consumption of cigarettes has increased 43 per cent during the past five years, while per capita consumption has risen 24 per cent! The tobacco corporations brazenly state, in prominent trade journals, that they believe effective advertising will bring even greater profits by promoting a more extensive use of cigarettes, among "rural women where the habit has not yet been made as widespread as in the cities."

Their reports reveal no concern regarding the effect on public health of excessive smoking—especially among women and young mothers—this in spite of the frequently expressed alarm on the part of important medical groups over the effect of nicotine poisoning upon the health of the nation. The only concern the cigarette corporations reveal is over their profits. These powerful industrial groups who spend millions on propaganda to re-sell capitalism to the country seem to interpret "free enterprise" as freedom to exploit public health for additional profits. A dozen of such so-called "capitalists" are doing more to destroy real traditional American capitalism, based on the concept of neighborly Christian sharing, than all the Communists in America put together.—Between the Lines.

AN ORCHID TO:

The selection of a Negro pastor, the Rev. A. M. Erwin, to serve as president of the Loudoun County Ministerial Association is another indication of racial progress at the personal level in Virginia.

WHAT ABOUT BAPTISTS?

The Roman Catholic church has made great progress in its work among Negroes of the South, according to Bishop Richard O. Gerow of Natchez, Miss.

Speaking at a convention of the Catholic Committee of the South in Lexington, Ky., Bishop Gerow said, "More and more the Negro is beginning to recognize the Catholic church as his true and influential friend."

THEY SAID THIS

Cicero, of the Britons:

"Do not obtain your slaves from the Britons, for the Britons are so stupid and so dull that they are not fit to be slaves."

A Moor, of the Germans in the fourteenth century:

"These Germans are tall of stature and light of skin, but I have heard it rumored that they do not take baths." A member of Congress, of the people of Ohio when they asked for statehood:

"They are so uncouth, so rude, and so unlettered that they will never make good citizens."

Yet the British rose to be masters of the world's greatest empire; the Germans made great contributions to science, education, music, art, and all phases of modern civilization; and the people of Ohio became good enough citizens to produce seven of this country's presidents.

The arguments of stupidity, uncleanness, and rudeness did not keep these peoples from great development. And no such arguments will keep the so-called backward people of Asia, Africa, and South America from taking over our inventions and building even greater civilizations in the future.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

According to United States News our Government has spent 45 billion dollars in this fiscal year. This is more than the total amount of gold mined since Columbus discovered America. (In 457 years approximately 40 billion dollars worth of gold has been mined.)

Note: Seventy per cent of the Federal budget goes to pay for past wars and to prepare for more war!

A young thing was late for the symphony concert. "What are they playing now?" she breathlessly inquired of the usher. "Ninth Symphony," the usher replied. "Goodness!" exclaimed the tardy one, "am I as late as that?"—Nicholas Slonimsky, *Etude*.

LIGHT

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