



# Christian Life Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Sixty Days to Report

After sixty days what? The Reserve Forces Act of 1955 provides that within sixty days after the date of enactment the National Security Training Commission shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a program for the health and moral welfare of the 17-year old youth who volunteer and those who are inducted by the draft. The law specifies that this program will "include the regulations concerning the dispensing of alcoholic beverages on training establishments, in conformity with the laws of the several states." The deadline for this sixty-day period is October 9, 1955.

We may assume that the National Security Training Commission is busy at this time in preparing their report on this vital matter for the Secretary of Defense as provided in the 1955 Reserve Forces Act. We had the privilege of discussing our procedures on this matter with Capt. E. L. Ackiss of the Home Mission Board while at Glorieta during Student Week. The executive committee of the Home Board has sent a very strong and comprehensive letter through Dr. Courts Redford to the chairman of the National Security Training Commission suggesting a constructive program for the moral and spiritual welfare of our youth while in military training.

Your congressman and senators are at home now. Discuss with them or invite them into a group discussion on the provisions in the Reserve Forces Act with special attention to "Special Enrollment Programs" in Chapter 8.

## Crusade for Christian Morality

The Crusade for Christian Morality is an outgrowth of conferences with Dr. James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board. In response to a deep concern expressed by several of our people in responsible places of leadership, Dr. Sullivan asked Dr. Clifton J. Allen who shared this concern to call into conference representatives of the various agencies of the Convention to discuss ways and means to inaugurate such a cooperative movement among Southern Baptists. These representatives met at Nashville on October 15, 1954. They agreed to ask Dr. Allen to present their recommendation for such a movement to the promotion committee in December of that year. The Committee acted with unanimity and enthusiasm to provide for the appointment of a representative crusade committee to sponsor the movement. The following were named by Chairman Norris Palmer to serve on this committee: Clifton J. Allen, chairman;

Courts Redford, Merrill D. Moore, Miss Alma Hunt, John Jeter Hurt, Jr., Floyd B. Chaffin, George W. Schroeder, Paul M. Stevens and A. C. Miller.

## Crusade Committee Meets

The Crusade Committee held another of its meetings at Nashville on September 6. The discussions pointed up the need for a definite week of emphasis with which to launch the movement for 1956, and a definite day in each quarter for announcements and special emphasis on the subject for that quarter. The group unanimously agreed to submit these recommendations to the states for their consideration and action.

## Constitutional Rights Under Review

Our constitutional rights are under review. A subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee is conducting a clause by clause review of the Bill of Rights under the chairmanship of Senator Thomas C. Henning, Jr., of Missouri. Other members of this committee are Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, and Senator William Langer of North Dakota. On October 3 this committee held hearings on the first clause of the First Amendment dealing with religious liberty.

This is a matter that comes under the province of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs with headquarters at 1628 - 16th St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C. Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson, the executive director of this committee, is on the alert there for us. Southern Baptists have a committee of fifteen representatives on this joint committee of which Dr. Walter Pope Binns, president of William Jewell College, is the chairman. The full committee on public affairs representing six national Baptist bodies convened in Washington October 10 and 11.

## Christian Life Commission for Arizona

The State Executive Board of Arizona in its meeting on September 9 inaugurated the organization of a Christian Life Commission for their state. Dr. Willis J. Ray, executive secretary, W. D. Lawes, secretary for evangelism, and W. Barry Garrett, editor of Baptist Beacon, brought the recommendations to establish the Commission. "Christianity involves not only an inward experience but an outward expression," they state in their recommendations. In their continued emphasis on "the necessity of the New Birth for salvation" they will stress "with proportionate vigor the moral responsibilities of the new life."

## COMMISSION COMMENTS

### Our Need for Wholeness

One of the laws of mathematics is that the whole is greater than any of its parts. One may feel that a law in mathematics has little to do with the Kingdom of God, but this law may serve as an illustration at least of one of our greatest needs—our need for wholeness in our understanding and acceptance of the Christian message. To the New Testament Christians the Christian religion was an invasion of their own lives by the living Spirit of God. Their response in repentance and faith was the means by which the divine could abide in them. They believed that "it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." Obviously the early Christian did not divide his life into parts such as spiritual, moral, social and economic. The Christ who lived in him was the power that unified his life into one victorious whole.

The Christian must reject as a deadly heresy the idea of two absolutely different standards, one for his life in the Kingdom of God and one for his life in the social and economic order. All of us will agree that no amount of social emphasis will ever take the place of the gospel of repentance and faith as far as the initial experience of personal salvation is concerned. But when one becomes a follower of Christ through that initial experience he has a lot to learn about the relationships in his life as a Christian. Very soon after Paul left a church that he had established he began writing letters to the new converts to answer their questions about how they could be Christians in a hostile society. He even had to tell some of them how to be Christians toward people who had formerly been slaves. They did have much to learn about living the Christian life.

### Religion and Morality

Much has been written in a philosophical way on the relation of religion and morality. In a general way we seem to feel that religion is what we know and do about the work and worship of God, while morality is concerned with the rules of right conduct based on custom and practice in human society. Perhaps our emphasis on this distinction has trapped us into the error of referring

to religion and morality as separate spheres of responsibility. The New Testament teaches that they are one as the tree and its fruit are one. To be sure they must be kept in their proper relationship. One must cultivate the tree if he is to have its fruit.

Another way in which we often separate morality from religion in the minds of our people is in our fervent presentation of the plan of salvation. We warn the people not to substitute morality for religion; and certainly they should not. But our positive emphasis on the spiritual nature of religion as over against our negative emphasis on the human nature of morality leads many of our people into the idea that they can have religion without morality. And they take advantage of the offer; for great numbers of our church members never let their religion interfere with their moral behaviour.

### Faith's Abiding Anchor

Someone has said, "God is never in a hurry, but he is always on time." This ought to help us in our day when so many of us as Christians are suffering from a sense that the world is out of control. Another has written, "God is by no means baffled or bewildered by mankind's muddles and follies." After all, the world is primarily God's responsibility. The best we can do is to find our part in his vast purpose and do our best to fulfil it.

Perhaps we should make and keep our schedules according to a longer look based on our faith in God and our dependence on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In so much of what we do we are tempted to take short cuts, to work for quick results and to evade painful sacrifice. If we had been with Jesus in his temptation in the wilderness, one wonders if we would not have urged him to take some of the deals Satan offered him.

We do live in a time when God seems to be stepping up his pace toward the fulfilment of his "one increasing purpose." The purpose itself, in its scope and depth, is becoming clearer. In Christ alone his purpose for his whole creation is being revealed. My question and yours must be, "Am I permitting him to work through me for the achievement of his purpose?"

## SURVEY OF FACTS

### People are Facts

On May 27, 1955 at 7:51 A. M. (Eastern Standard Time) the huge population meter in the Department of Commerce Building in Washington, D. C. turned to 165,000,000. This was the population of the United States at that moment. A baby is born somewhere in our nation every eight seconds; a person dies every twenty-one seconds; an immigrant arrives every two minutes and an immigrant departs every twenty-four minutes. Counting our gains and losses in people there is an average of one person added to our population every twelve seconds.

Other figures indicate that we can expect a continued increase in the number of people within our nation. There were 130,000 more babies born in 1954 than in 1953 and the first six months of 1955 indicate that this increase will at least be equaled. The proportion of unmarried adults is declining, young people are marrying at an earlier age, and now for the first time in four decades the average size of the family is increasing.

### The World's 100

In the list of 100 of the world's most important people as compiled by Donald Robinson, former chief historian for the U. S. Military Government, there are 30 Americans, 12 from Great Britain, 10 from the Soviet Union, 7 from France, 5 each from China and India, 4 from Switzerland, 3 from Germany, and 2 each from Egypt, Israel, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

The youngest person on the list is Queen Elizabeth who is 29 and the oldest is the Japanese painter, Taikan Yokoyama, who is 87. Two people are in their thirties, 12 in their forties, 33 in their fifties, 39 in their sixties, 9 in their seventies, and 4 in their eighties.

Two observations of significance may be made. One is that 82 out of this 100 are above fifty years of age. This is something to be considered by our nation whose aged are increasing at the rate of 400,000 annually. Social security will find a way to provide support for the great majority of our older people, but we must find a way within our society to use their knowledge and experience in constructive employment. A second observation on this list of 100 is that 17 are Asians whereas on a similar list two years ago there were 8. Maybe the color line does not indicate the boundary between darkness and light as so many of us seem to think.

### This is Good Timing

Clipsheet for August reports a new program called Non-Alcoholics Anonymous and modeled on the informal lines of Alcoholics Anonymous has been organized in New York City. The difference between the two programs as stressed

by the new organizers: "We want to put on the brakes before the car goes over the cliff instead of picking up the casualties."

### Let's Give Them a Hand

Surveys show there are 8,998 daily and weekly newspapers in the United States that refuse liquor ads and 2,881 of these also refuse wine and beer advertising. The totally dry dailies number 190, with 242 refusing liquor ads only, which adds up to 432 dailies that will run no liquor ad.

States with the largest number of dry dailies are: Pennsylvania with 24, Texas has 19, New York 17, Illinois 14, Iowa and Kansas 13 each, and North Carolina 12.

Find out about the dry papers in your section and give them a hand. They refuse to advertise a product that is destroying human life, breaking down public morals, and wrecking the home life of our country.

### Indian Health and Lands

The Washington Newsletter from the Friends Committee reports that the 84th Congress in its first session appropriated \$33,850,000 for Indian Health Activities for the coming fiscal year. This was a \$9 million increase over last year's appropriation. In addition \$250,000 was granted for a full scale study to find remedies for the pressing Indian health problem.

Another action of vital significance was that the Congress granted to the Papago Indians all minerals lying beneath their reservation lands. The Papago tribe was the last to receive both surface and mineral rights. The act forestalled a further rush of uranium prospectors to the Papago Reservation.

### Brain Cells Whittled Away

Loss of control in alcoholism is mostly due to changes in the brain cells caused by the "drug," reports Dr. Frederick Lemere of Seattle, Washington. He disclosed that large scale consumption of alcohol simply "whittles away" brain cells.

Eventually, "any alcohol in the system will immediately paralyze the remaining will power and judgment in alcoholics. Few alcoholics intend to drink to excess, but once alcohol is imbibed, they are left helpless to control their drinking."

That part of the brain which tells them when to quit becomes so deteriorated that once control is lost, it is lost forever, because "brain cells once lost are never replaced."—Clipsheet

The Los Angeles Times reports from Dr. Lester Breslow of the State Department of Public Health that California's alcoholics annually cost the state 12 times the total revenue derived from liquor taxes.

## VIEWPOINTS

### The Revival of a Vital Issue

In the preface of his monumental work on "Church and State in the United States," Anson Phillips Stokes discusses seven reasons for the renewed discussions on the relation of church and state within our nation: (a) the observance in 1938 of the 160th anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution and in 1941 of the ratification of the Bill of Rights which helped to stimulate a decade of thinking on the subject; (b) the world conference at Oxford in 1937 on the church, the community and the state; (c) the founding of the United Nations with its Commission on the Declaration of Human Rights; (d) the development of the totalitarian states with the idea that the church should conform to state control; (e) the trends toward a welfare state in our own country giving rise to complications in the adjustments between the church and the state; (f) changes in moral standards; (g) the importance in the discussions of world affairs for the understanding of this American principle.

These statements are made largely from a historical viewpoint but they are the outgrowth of Scriptural teaching. However, many of us have limited the scriptural teaching on this principle to one verse, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." But there is more to support this principle of the relation of church and state than a single passage or a number of passages. One must take into account the whole spirit and teaching of the New Testament upon which to formulate this doctrine of a free church in a free state. Some of these teachings are: the supremacy of the Lordship of Christ; the spiritual nature of the relationship between God and man; the right of every man to a direct approach to God; the voluntary principle in religion; and the open Bible as the word of God.

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*The Christian Life Commission*

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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### Legal Segregation or Social Justice?

The system of legal segregation was created in the first place by political compromise and has been nourished by political expediency and subterfuge. The political state alone has neither the wisdom nor the power to create a just and final solution of this problem. We lay great stress on the value of freedom but we are less keenly alert to the need for social justice. The colored people of our nation have come to know our particular brand of democracy offers to them neither freedom nor social justice. The Christian way would offer both.

### A Distiller's Threat

A stern warning to newspapers to come up with better merchandising services and editorial support or face loss of their advertising was voiced in a recent meeting with newspaper representatives by George Mosley, vice-president in charge of advertising and sales promotion for Seagram Distillers Co.

Mr. Mosley made his comments at a luncheon at which representatives of about 160 newspapers received insertion orders for this year's moderation ad, the 37th in a series that has been running since 1934. This particular ad was written with graduations and father's day in mind. It was headlined, "Your son can write his own future," and stresses the father's role in giving his son good living habits and opportunities.

Mr. Mosley was preceded at the luncheon by Sam Youngheart, vice-president of Warwick and Legler, a Seagram agency. Mr. Youngheart praised newspaper advertising for the role it played in sales promotion but criticized editorial departments for the bad press they gave the liquor business by playing up such things as drunken driving.

Nothing dies so hard or rallies so often as intolerance.

—H. W. Beecher.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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