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Christian Life Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

A. C. MILLER, Executive Secretary-Treasurer • 161 EIGHTH AVE., N. NASHVILLE 3, TENN.

Published Monthly

News of The Commission and Its Work

The Christian Life Commission of Texas held a meeting at Glorieta on July 11 and 12 to study and plan their program for the current year and beyond. Dr. Harold G. Basden, pastor of the Gaston Avenue Baptist Church of Dallas, was recently elected chairman of the Texas Commission to succeed Dr. A. B. Rutledge, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Marshall, Texas, who left the Commission by rotation after six years of effective service. The Texas group is led by Dr. Foy Valentine, its Executive Director. They have asked the Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Commission to bring the opening address on the work and program of his agency.

The National Temperance League held its annual training institute at the Southern Baptist Seminary June 19-27. Dr. Duke McCall, president of the National League, and Rev. Walter C. House, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, contributed much to the success of the institute by the helpful arrangements made for all personnel and seminary groups. Major Clayton M. Wallace opened the school with a challenging address. He emphasized the growing menace of the manufacture, sale, and consumption of VODKA, the Russian drink, within our country. Dr. B. E. Ewing of Philadelphia serves as chairman of the Committee on Education of the National Temperance League. He is the able and successful Superintendent of the Temperance League of Pennsylvania. He and his committee were responsible for the program topics and personnel. The short course they arranged in alcohol education for this nine-day training institute gave much information that is sorely needed by Christian leaders and workers within our churches. We must do more to get our people to attend these meetings and others of the kind that will be promoted by this Commission when sufficient funds are made available.

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention held its annual conferences at Glorieta on July 12-18 simultaneously with the

annual Bible Conference. The general topic for our discussions was the same as that announced in this issue of the Bulletin (p. 3) for Ridgecrest: namely, **Current Questions and Christian Answers**. Some of the daily topics were different, however. Our opening discussion was on **The Christian View of Man** led by Dr. Elwin L. Skiles, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Abilene, Texas. Dr. W. D. Lawes of Phoenix led us in the discussion of **The Person in the Community**. Dr. Lawes served for a number of years on a committee appointed by the Governor of New Mexico with duties in the area of work suggested by this topic. He is leading the Brotherhood work of Arizona and is the chairman of the newly organized Christian Life Commission for his state. Dr. Albert McClellan led a very challenging discussion on **The Christian and His Daily Work**. He was returning from an extended trip with his family to our mission fields in Mexico. Mrs. McClellan is a member of our Commission. Our fourth and last conference was on **The Churches and Political Action**, led by A. C. Miller.

We have integrated the program of our **Christian Life Conferences** this year with that of the **Bible Conferences** sponsored by the **Sunday School Board**. Note our program at Ridgecrest in this **Bulletin**. It is divided into three sections: Hours with the Bible, Afternoon Discussions, and Evening Worship. This will enable us to attend the Bible classes, the afternoon discussion periods, and the evening worship. We had the same kind of integrated program at Glorieta.

In this way all may have the opportunity of fellowship in Bible study, discussion, and worship. Bible study increases our knowledge of the Christian faith. The discussion period will help us to understand our faith in terms of Christian character and conduct. And fellowship in worship brings us to the source of our power and gives us the assurance of victory.

Commission Comments

The Christian Life Commission is not a separate entity to be kept aloof from our denominational life in the performance of a highly specialized function. It is an integral part of the total work of the churches, designed to give emphasis to those areas of our Christian responsibility which we have too long neglected. We do have a special function, but it is hard to define in terms of statistics and specific areas of work.

This difficulty arises from two facts. One is that social issues are in a constant state of change. The other is that, as our denomination grows in awareness of its social responsibilities, other agencies are taking on more and more work in social areas. This is as it should be; but it leads some to inquire, "Just what does this Commission do that our other agencies are not doing?" When the inquirer seeks his answer with sympathy and understanding he will find it. When there are no more rivers to cross the bridge builders are no longer needed. But as long as a great denomination is on the move "to possess the land," there will always be rivers to cross.

Today America faces a deadly new threat. It is VODKA, the alcoholic beverage of Russia, that is the potential menace. Herman Kaplan, associate editor of a magazine called *Spirits*, a journal for wine and liquor executives, wrote an article which he called, "The Romantic Side of Vodka" in which he says: "Two great explosions were sparked in America by World War II. The effects

of both are still being felt today. One was the atom bomb. The other was VODKA." The editor of *Spirits* shows just how much of an explosion VODKA has produced by giving us these facts: In 1949 the number of wine gallons of Vodka bottled in America was 400,000. By 1954 this figure had risen to 3,534,000. Just a year later, in 1955, this number had grown to 6,000,000.

How Vodka Is Produced

Vodka is produced by causing the alcohol distillate to flow continuously through tanks of charcoal. The charcoal removes approximately all the fusel oil and other impurities in the alcohol, leaving it tasteless, colorless, and odorless. It does not have to be stored in order to age. It can be produced rapidly, thus offering a quick turnover with increased profits. No bonded warehouses are necessary. No large investments are needed.

On every hand we Americans are "up in arms" against the infiltration of Communism. But six million gallons of this filtration product in one year is fast becoming a more deadly threat to the spiritual and moral values in our country than Communism will ever become to our political and economic life.

Again we quote a faithful Christian scholar of our country: "Nations do not perish from causes that are without; they perish from causes within. Nations do not die; they commit suicide."

ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSIONS

Brooks Hays, Presiding

The annual business sessions of the Christian Life Commission will be held at Ridgecrest on the following schedule:

8:00-10:00 a.m. Friday, August 24.

8:00-10:30 p.m. Friday, August 24.

8:00-10:00 a.m. Saturday, August 25.

Each member of the Commission makes his own reservation by writing his request to W. K. Weeks, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C. Send with your request a registration fee of \$2.50.

Christian Life Conferences at Ridgcrest

Beginning Thursday, August 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Wednesday, August 29, at 1:00 p.m.

Conference topic: "Current Questions and Christian Answers."

HOURS WITH THE BIBLE

Sponsored by the Sunday School Board

- 8:45- 9:45 Bible Expositions W. W. Adams
10:00-11:00 The Bible and Life:
 "Christian Citizenship" Olin T. Binkley
 "Human Freedom" C. Emanuel Carlson
 "The Inner Life" Vernon B. Richardson
11:15-12:30 Bible Doctrines Dotson M. Nelson, Jr.

AFTERNOON DISCUSSIONS

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission

4:15-5:30

- Friday: "Racial Understanding From the Old Testament" Ralph Phelps
Saturday: "Racial Understanding From the New Testament" Ralph Phelps
Monday: "The Person in the Community" Olin T. Binkley
Tuesday: "The Christian's Political Life" C. Emanuel Carlson

EVENING WORSHIP

8:00-9:00 p.m.

- Thursday through Tuesday Duke K. McCall

(Convene at 7:00 on Thursday)

Viewpoints

The People Versus The People

Today a most unusual trial is in progress. We, the people, are plaintiff, prosecution, defendant, judge, and jury.

Out of our conscience and our constitution have come decrees condemning certain practices as unlawful and unjust. Because we have engaged in them for decades, we both know ourselves guilty and count ourselves innocent.

We are on trial, however, to see if we shall continue to put convenience above justice, comfort above right, preference above law, pride above duty. Strangely, we know we shall one day cease to do these things—if not soon, on the level of willingness, then later, out of compulsion.

Whatever guilt is confessed or denied, whatever wrongs are righted or repeated, whatever sentences are imposed or whatever fines assessed, we shall in the end pay all the indemnities, serve all the sentences, suffer all the injustices—we, the people.—R. Orin Cornett

One Nation Under God*

Mere idealism and inspiration or even dedication to scriptural and scientific truth are not enough for this critical era. Action based on disciplined, intelligent cooperation must be taken to remove barriers which delay the development of the unity of humanity. Good will between the races will really work when legal barriers of city, county, and state give way to requirements of our federal constitution and the dictates of our Christian conscience. This is the glory of our unfolding faith, the goal of our unfulfilled fellowship, that our southland and all sections of our nation may

move forward in the demonstration of a pattern of spiritual unification, integrated education, and productive cooperation that will make America fit to lead the world. Only thus may we be ONE NATION UNDER GOD where every child has a chance to develop and all have a challenge to dedicate the total of talents in the fulfillment of God's purposes for His creation.

"Integration"***

The word "integration" as used by many people is unfortunate in some ways. The elimination of legal segregation in the public schools and elsewhere would not necessarily mean integration in the sense that many are using the word. They are thinking of it as complete integration and some even of amalgamation. They should remember, however, that even in a non-segregated society, such as we have in certain sections of the United States and in other countries, there continues to be considerable separation of races. However, for those of the minority group there is a vast difference between segregation and separation. The former is maintained by force—legal or social; the latter is voluntary. The former carries the stigma of inferiority; the latter may be maintained by the minority group without any loss of a sense of equality.

***The Unity of Humanity**, by John Hall Jones, Birmingham, Alabama. Published in booklet form by the **Christian Life Commission**. Free on request.

*****"Integration,"** by T. B. Maston, Southwestern Seminary. Published in booklet form by the **Christian Life Commission**. Free on request.

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