



# Light

Bulletin of THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION of THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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JULY-AUGUST 1959

## **Commission Secretary Attends Conferences On Aging**

The Executive Secretary of the Christian Life Commission attended two significant conferences on the aging the week of June 22-26, at the University of Michigan.

The first was the Twelfth Annual Conference on Aging sponsored by the University. For more than a decade the leaders in the Extension Department of this great school have been studying this vital question and growing problem in the American population. At this conference they sought to assess past experience and current research to give new insights and encouragement to the planned development of systems and programs of individual preparation which will give vitality, meaning, and social significance to the retirement years.

The second conference was a three-day workshop conducted by the Special Staff on Aging of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in cooperation with departments and agencies of the federal government and other organizations. This was a National Leadership Training Institute leading up to the White House Conference on Aging in which the Christian Life Commission has been invited to participate.

Both the institute and the conference were designed to assist states, communities, individuals, and organizations in program planning and in guiding their activities for the aging, and as special preparation for the White House Conference. The information and insights received at these conferences will be of valuable help to the Commission in planning and promoting conferences for leadership training in this vital area of our Christian service.

## **Christian Life Conferences At Summer Assemblies**

The Christian Life Conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta assemblies in August have for their theme "The Christian Citizen in Community Action." The conference program will consist of workshops on the problem of alcohol and alcoholism, obscene literature, racial tensions, and church-state relations considered in the light of community life and responsibility. The workshops will be followed daily by a period of Bible study on "The Christian Gospel and Social Frontiers," and an evening period of questions and open discussion on the subjects considered in the workshops and Bible class.

We extend a special and urgent invitation to each member of the Christian Life, Social Service, or Civic Righteousness committees of the various states to be present. We join Dr. Carlson and his office in urging all who are members of the various state Public Affairs Committees to come and participate in the workshop on church-state relations at the community level. All who are interested in helping to find a solution for these community issues so vital to the moral and spiritual welfare of the people have our cordial invitation to attend these meetings at Glorieta, August 6-12, and at Ridgecrest, August 20-26.

In addition to these conferences by the Christian Life Commission, there will be available other periods of Bible study and worship in the program of the annual Bible Conference sponsored by the Sunday School Board, with special times for fellowship and recreation for all.

## **The Christian Life Commission At The Convention**

Three significant actions relating to the work of the Christian Life Commission were taken by the Southern Baptist Convention at Louisville. (1) The Convention approved the report of the Committee on Total Program that "each commission is currently conducting an important program which should be continued as a vital service to the denomination." (2) It approved the allocation of \$31,500.00 to the opera-

tions budget of the Commission for 1960, an increase of \$8,500.00 over 1959. (3) It approved the recommendation of the Committee on World Peace that the Convention commit to the Christian Life Commission the program on world peace, including the appointment of a Southern Baptist observer at the United Nations.

# Salt-o-graphs

**"Ye are the salt of the earth"**

Throughout the inhabited parts of the globe there are some causes that drive people together: the growth in population, the forces of nature, the aggression of enemies. There are other causes that draw people together: the instinct for association, the needs of livelihood, the desire for culture. The result is that on every continent or island of the sea human life forms itself into communities.

The individual and the family group are becoming more and more dependent upon community life. In spite of the development of nuclear weapons that threaten to destroy whole cities, man is not likely to scatter into mountain caves or country cabins for his permanent abode. He is more likely to go underground, to emerge about the first minute he can. For an indefinite future people will live in communities large and small. It is necessary, therefore, that this community life be made wholesome, healthful, and moral.

Such a goal is not attained by accident. It is achieved by men "toiling upward in the night"—and through the day. Society is becoming more

complex. With the awakening of multiplied millions of submerged peoples over the world, and the growth in the world population being counted in other multiplied millions, human society is not likely to become any less complex. Yet with all of its complexities, it is striving for unity. The relations among men must become so adjusted that they will produce the maximum of justice, happiness, and peace with a minimum of disease, danger, and conflict.

The story of man begins in a peaceful garden. The story of redeemed man culminates in a beautiful city. It is a city into which nothing enters that defiles. It is a city where man lives in loving fellowship with God and with one another. In that city the strength of each is held in trust for the good of all.

"Then let me learn the language of that home  
While here on earth I be;  
Lest my poor lips for want of words be dumb  
In that high company." (Anonymous)

—A. C. M.

## Advance Needed In Human Relations

by

Adiel J. Moncrief, Jr.\*

The racial conflict of our region has set back the cause of Christian missions in vast areas of the world. The repercussions of this conflict are heard in Africa, India, and the Near East, where their terrific impact turn the multitudes against our missionary enterprises and do great damage to the moral leadership of America. The gravity of this conflict and the urgency for its solution cannot be overemphasized.

The Christian Life Commission constantly pleads for a change of mind and a change of heart on the part of those among our Southern Baptist constituency who resist racial democracy. We urge that communication between the Negro and white races be re-established and maintained; that good will and mutual trust be more earnestly and prayerfully sought under the Holy Spirit, who has through the centuries given clear social vision and has enabled us to develop strong bonds of love and understanding for all the children of God.

We would exert no force that would abridge the freedom of any individual in Christ or that would compromise any man's conscience; nor would we in the slightest degree infringe the autonomy of any local church. But we have a deep conviction that the exercise of such liberty by many of our brethren with respect to their attitude and relations toward the Negro people may prove to be a "stumbling-block" and "an opportunity for the flesh" (Gal. 5:13-14).

We cannot forget that the Church is the body of which Christ is the Head. It must be governed by Christ's declared truths and be subject to his will. It must be motivated by his love and guided by his mind; otherwise it becomes no better than any human society. It loses its prophetic voice and "is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by man."

The Commission is concerned for the future of Baptists in this struggle. We believe that Baptists, along with many other Christians, are on trial in the court of world opinion as well as in the eyes of God. We plead for a reconsideration by our people and their churches of their position on this issue in the light of Christian truth. We urge them to engage in a prayerful and steadfast advance in their relations with the Negro people that will give content and power to the Christian gospel in terms of true brotherhood and justice to all peoples.

\*Dr. Moncrief is Chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and pastor of the First Baptist Church of St. Joseph, Mo.





## World Peace and the United Nations

In this and subsequent issues of LIGHT this page will be used for questions and answers relating to the work of the Christian Life Commission on world peace and the United Nations. One of the principal functions of the Commission is to give authentic information on the areas of work committed to it. Since this is a new advance movement for Southern Baptists, we believe the first need to be met is that

of basic information on this question. We will do our best to give an objective answer to all questions sent us relating to this subject, regardless of the opinion expressed.

Since several questions have been asked since the Convention met in Louisville, we will answer three of them in this issue.

*Q. "What precedent do Southern Baptists have for their action at Louisville on world peace and on the appointment of a United Nations Observer?"*

A. Southern Baptists have a great deal of precedent. As early as 1891 the Southern Baptist Convention appointed its President, Judge Jonathan Harralson, as delegate to a meeting to study and urge the securing of arbitration in place of war. A resolution urging arbitration for all nations was adopted in 1895, and in 1921 the Convention asked that a conference on disarmament be called. The year 1925 saw a resolution adopted by the Convention which approved the adherence of the U. S. to the Permanent Court of International Justice; and every year from 1931 to 1936 the Convention urged the U. S. to ratify the protocol of the World Court. From that year to the present, a resolution or statement on peace, war, or disarmament has been adopted almost every year. In 1943 a Committee on World Peace was appointed by the Convention. It served until 1946, formulated six principles as a basis for world peace, and cooperated unofficially with the U. S. government in the organization of the United Nations, with seven out of its nine suggestions being incorporated in the U. N. Charter.

*Q. "Isn't the U. N. a nest of communist spies?"*

A. There is nothing to spy on in the U. N. All its debates and decisions are open to every member. Nothing in the U. S.-U. N. Headquarters agreement prevents the U. S. from prosecuting for espionage or subversion any of its own citizens employed by the U. N. The exchange of missions between nations leaves open the possibility, but the concentration of delegates in one area makes it easier to guard against espionage.

*Q. "Since the U. N. does not name God in its Charter and does not open its meetings with prayer, isn't it therefore atheistic?"*

A. The Constitution of the U. S. does not name God, but is not therefore atheistic. The U. N. General Assembly opens its meetings with a moment of silence so that each delegate may offer silently his own prayer in his own language. A prayer room for delegates and employees is open at all times. The U. N. Charter expresses the hopes and aspirations of religious and peace-loving people throughout the world and is a document consistent with beliefs common to the major religious groups of this country.

## DINNER

The annual Convention dinner meeting of the Christian Life Commission was held on Tuesday night, May 19, in the Mason-Dixon Restaurant at Louisville, Ky.

The following members and their wives were present: Dr. and Mrs. Henlee Barnette, Kentucky; Rev. Walter Thompson, California; Dr. and Mrs. Robert McCan, Tennessee; Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Shamburger, Texas; Rev. Carl Daw, Tennessee; Dr. and Mrs. W. Howard Lee, Virginia; Dr. and Mrs. C. Douglas Jackson, Georgia;

Dr. R. B. Culbreth, Florida; Dr. Julius Corpening, South Carolina; Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Dehoney, Tennessee; Chaplain Fred Bell, Dr. Dewey Roach, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Colson, Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Miller, and Miss Jan Nisbet, all from Nashville, Tennessee.

The following guests were also present: Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson, Executive Director, and Dr. Barry Garrett, Associate Director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Mr. Harry Seamans, Organization Liaison Officer, U. S. Dept. of State; Dr. Foy Valentine, Executive Director, Texas Christian Life Commission; and Rev. Jack Wilson, pastor, Kansas City, Missouri.

In the absence of the chairman Dr. C. Douglas Jackson was chosen to preside. Among the matters discussed were the Commission's report to the Convention and the recent meeting of the President's Committee on Government Contracts in Washington. This meeting was attended by eight of the Commission members, five of whom reported briefly on the proceedings.

## COMING

The Christian Life Commission wishes to express appreciation for the service performed by its four outgoing members. These men who have served faithfully over the past few years are: Dr. J. Guy Saunders, Maryland; Mr. Robert N. Nicholson, Oklahoma; Dr. W. M. Shamburger, Texas; and Dr. Wayne Dehoney, local member from Jackson, Tennessee.

We are happy to introduce the following new members: Rev. Leonard Carmack, pastor, First Baptist Church, Brunswick, Maryland; Rev. Joe Ingram, pastor, Nogales Avenue Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mr. Orba Lee Malone, attorney, El Paso, Texas; and Mrs. Douglas Hills, Superintendent of Cradle Roll Work, BSSB, Nashville, Tennessee.

The following members were re-elected for a second term: Dr. G. Avery Lee, Louisiana; Dr. Adiel J. Moncrief, Jr., Missouri; Dr. Olin T. Binkley, North Carolina; Dr. Robert McCan, Tennessee; and Dr. Howard P. Colson, Dr. Dewey R. Roach, Dr. R. K. Galloway, and Dr. Daniel R. Grant, local members from Nashville, Tennessee.

## CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCES—GLORIETA—AUGUST 6-12

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