



Light

Bulletin of THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION of THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

161 EIGHTH AVENUE N • NASHVILLE 3 TENNESSEE

VOL. XI, NO. 5

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1959

Program Study Committee Meets at Nashville

The Program Study Committee of the Christian Life Commission met at Nashville, Tenn., October 5-6. This committee was appointed at the annual business meeting of the Commission in August. Its purpose is to make a thorough review and study of the program and work of this agency according to recommendations adopted by the Convention in the report of the Committee to Study the Total Program of the Convention.

Those who are serving on this committee are: Adiel J. Moncrief, Jr., Missouri, chairman; Joe L. Ingram, Oklahoma; R. B. Culbreth, Florida; Julius H. Corpening, South Carolina; Olin T. Binkley, North Carolina; Leonard D. Carmack, Maryland; and Robert L. McCan, Carl P. Daw, Daniel R. Grant, Fred L. Bell, and Paul Sanders of Tennessee.

Commission Serves at National Meetings

The Christian Life Commission as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention was represented by its Executive Secretary in national meetings at New York, October 7-14.

He was called by the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare to serve as a consultant for a planning committee for the White House Conference on the Aging to be held at Washington, D. C., January 9-12, 1961. The special function of this committee was to plan for the workshops and discussions on the role of the churches and of religion in the lives of the aged and the aging.

The committee took the position that in this government-sponsored conference the vital place of religion and the churches must not be ignored nor shoved to one side into an isolated compartment. The discussions revealed the deep conviction of both the committee members and consultants that religion is more than a subject to be considered in planning for the welfare of the aged. It is a vital force by which the aged themselves must seek fulfillment for their lives, and by which all efforts to assist them should be motivated.

The other meeting attended by the Commission Secretary was the United Nations seminar sponsored jointly by the American Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, Inc. The American Convention has committed its program on world peace and the United Nations to its Council on Christian Social Progress, of which Dr. John W. Thomas is the Executive Director. Mrs. George B. Martin serves as its United Nations Observer. The National Baptists have a United Nations Commission to serve in the interest of world peace. Their Commission is headed by Dr. Robert E. L. Hardmond.

The Executive Secretary of the Christian Life Commission was an invited guest for this seminar at the United Nations. He had some conferences with personnel leadership of the seminar relative to the probability of a representative group of Southern Baptists joining with them next year in these meetings at the United Nations. He also discussed with officials at the UN the requirements necessary for a Southern Baptist seminar. This latter alternative may be necessary because of the numbers that would be involved in a joint meeting of the three Conventions.

Salt-o-graphs

"Ye are the salt of the earth"

It is a common saying that the world has become a neighborhood. No one in any part of it can live unto himself. What he does in his own home town, and sometimes in his own backyard, affects people who live thousands of miles from him; and what they do affects him. A citizen's problems become world problems; and world problems can be solved only by world action. People of all colors and of every degree of culture who live in many nations, and who are different in dress, different in language, beliefs, habits and loyalties must become partners in a great idea. That idea is a peaceful world order.

The Christian gospel is the greatest force in all the world for peace and good will among men. Southern Baptists and other Christian bodies must send messengers of this gospel in ever increasing numbers unto the ends of the earth. We must widen the base of our witnessing to include the testimony of men and women of every vocation who represent business and government abroad. We must use the opportunity offered us through the United Nations to cultivate acquaintance and understanding with the national leadership of the world who come to this forum of the nations. People of every race and clime must come to know the Prince of Peace and to be motivated by his spirit.

Observations at the United Nations

by A. C. Miller

What is the present attitude of the United States public toward the United Nations? A report recently released on a three-year study of American attitudes toward the United Nations showed that 85% of the U. S. public favors the UN and believes that the United States should strive to make the UN a success. It is evident to all that the UN is not now 100% effective in all of its objectives. No thoughtful person could expect it to be. The study revealed however, that this 85% support is not solidly based on understanding of what the United Nations is, what it can realistically be expected to do, and what its relationship is to the personal life of the average citizen. This study points up the responsibility of the American citizen and the citizens of all countries that hold membership in the UN to widen the base of their understanding and support for this international forum and force for peace and world order.

What is the UNICEF of the United Nations? It is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations whose work is in the interest of children throughout the world. It was originally organized to provide medicine and sustenance for the multitudes of homeless and parentless children following World War II. It was called the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the first letter of each word forming the word UNICEF. The "emergency" became a permanent need for the suffering children of the world and the name was changed officially to United Nations Children's Fund; but those who have come to love its ministry still cling to the name UNICEF.

During my visit to the UN October 8-14, I sat in one of the meetings of this agency and learned something of its ministry of mercy. Within a single re-

cent year it has vaccinated 15,400,000 children against TB, protected 32,000,000 from malaria, treated 3,500,000 for yaws, and 1,000,000 for trachoma (a disease that produces blindness.) In addition, 5,300,000 children or mothers were given milk rations and another 4,000,000 were provided with safe milk from its UN milk plants in various parts of the world.

Observations in other divisions and agencies attended at the UN. Committee III of the General Assembly was working to formulate a Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Here was something highly significant. Representatives from 82 nations that compose the membership of the United Nations were giving their serious attention to the rights of the child. In the course of their discussions, they considered the plight of nations with the problem of juvenile delinquency. In these discussions the purpose and responsibility of the family received much emphasis.

The Trusteeship Council was considering the application of the Camaroon peoples in Africa for the recognition of their independence. This is a much better method than having to fight through bloody wars for independence. Following the addresses from the representatives of these people for their recognition as a free people, the Council voted to send a mission to their country to make firsthand studies and report back to the Council.

At the close of World War II in 1945, 800,000,000 lived in territories dependent on stronger nations. Today by the aid and direction of the Trusteeship Council of the UN, 600,000,000 of these people have gained their national independence.

Brooks Hays First Southern Baptist Observer



U N CONFERENCE—Brooks Hays (right), past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, confers with Dag Hammarskjöld, secretary general of United Nations, during Hays's recent visit to observe action at UN. He is the Convention's observer there.—(BP) Photo from United Nations.

The warmth of the welcome given me in New York last week as the Convention's first non-governmental organizations observer to the United Nations evidenced a deep appreciation of Baptist influence and our point of view in world affairs. The Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, and the Assembly President, Mr. Barundi of Peru, greeted me in my new capacity and referred to the homecoming character of my visit. (I was one of the United States delegates in 1955.) I remarked to Mr. Hammarskjöld that I then was the representative in Congress of only one third of a million constituents, but now have nine million to represent in this UN assignment.

There was a lull in the proceedings due partly to the overshadowing interest in Mr. Krushchev's tour, but some important speeches were being made by representatives of the "little nations", and I was also admitted to some of the cloak room conversations that gave me an insight into the potential issues of the current session. In a meeting with church and civic representatives the Honorable Walter Robertson of Virginia, one of our U. S. delegates to the Assembly, made a convincing presentation of our official attitude toward the admission of Red China to the UN, emphasizing the moral elements. In briefing sessions of this kind, with an opportunity presented to spokesmen for non-governmental organizations, we have a fine demonstration of how American democracy works, even in the consideration of international issues.

One gratifying aspect of the action of our 1959 Convention in adopting the Peace Committee's recommendation that a UN observer be designated is that other religious bodies are made aware of our deep interest in world issues such as religious liberty, maintenance of peace, and the attack upon

hunger and disease. The informal contacts between the leaders of the great denominations which the UN arrangements provide are valuable aids to the churches in carrying forward their various programs. Baptists in particular can appreciate the significance of the forum which the General Assembly has established. Here moral as well as political issues can be, and are, debated. The implications of some of the speeches will be studied by our missionaries and leaders.

For example, the Cuban representative announced that his country would "hereafter follow an independent course," and Cuba's vote to give Red China a seat seemed to indicate that our neighbor who has stood with us in so many previous votes now has a new relationship. This is but one illustration of the complexities of the Western's Hemisphere's governmental life challenging our Home and Foreign Missions leaders as well as our statesmen. I observed on a visit to Cuba four years ago that our missionaries were aware of the discontent of the masses of the people with Pres. Batista's policies. This condition was not fully understood here at home. The influence of our missionaries, which is always for non-violent solutions, can be extremely useful in the quest for peace.

In the UN corridors one heard almost as much talk of Krushchev's visit as in Washington, where I spent a day attending a session of the Joint Committee on Public Affairs. There is considerable speculation as to the Soviet chief's religion. Two opinions are worth repeating. Dr. Charles Lowry, whose knowledge of the Marxist dangers has been well applied in alerting his fellow countrymen, thinks that the occasional references of Mr. Krushchev to Christianity are explained by conditions in Russia. They reveal, he says, "something immensely important about the Russian soul—that the Russians haven't shed the influence of a thousand years of Christianity." But as to the man himself, the view of Dr. James Pike, prominent Episcopal Bishop, is correct: "He is not committing himself."

One final comment about Mr. Krushchev. He is a consummate salesman with talents as a propagandist not equalled by many public men. I believe that his visit may do a lot of good in the easing of tensions, although we must continually guard against apathy and indifference to world dangers growing out of Communist aggression. Since the Christian gospel underlies our political philosophy of freedom, both statesmen and churchmen may, as a result of Krushchev's visit, work more vigorously as propagandists themselves for spiritual values in world affairs.

—Brooks Hays



From

THE SOURCE FILE

The United Nations and How It Works, by David Cushman Coyle. (50¢) A clear and useful handbook on the work, problems, aims and achievements of the United Nations.

Mankind's Children: The Story of UNICEF, by Robert L. Heilbroner. (25¢) Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 279. (22 E. 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.)

UN Action Is Action for Peace. (American Association for the United Nations, 345 E. 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.) A look at the record, March, 1959.

Statements on World Peace by the Southern Baptist Convention. (50¢) The Christian Life Commission of the SBC. A report of all actions taken by the Convention on world peace, showing the developing trend in Southern Baptists' thought on the subject of world peace, disarmament, universal military training, conscientious objectors, etc., from 1891 through 1958.

A Vision of Victory, by Robert L. McCan (Baptist Book Store, \$3.00) The book of Revelation is probably the most read and the least understood of

any of the books of the New Testament. From the spiritual discernment and lucid pen of this young scholar and writer the imagery of this book and its relevance to our times become clear. The author sees the message of Revelation as "an assurance that God is far stronger than the evil forces at work in the world". It is a message that strengthens our faith in the ultimate victory of Christ in human history and in eternity.

The Aged and the Aging in the United States (Part I). U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. A report of the Senate sub-committee on the health of the aged and aging, employment problems of the older worker, income maintenance and financing of medical care, housing, living arrangements, and social services. (Released June 16-18, 1959).

Obscene Matter Sent Through the Mail (Report September, 1959). U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. A report to the congressional committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

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Published Bi-Monthly by the
CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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and Editor
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161-8th Ave., N.
Nashville 3, Tennessee

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