

REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

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November 1953

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By

E. B. Willingham, Chairman



Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson, New Executive Director

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs takes great pleasure in presenting to our Baptist fellowship Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson who has accepted the invitation to become our new Executive Director as of January 15, 1954. He will succeed Dr. Joseph M. Dawson who has served with honor in this position since September 1946.

Dr. Carlson comes to us with a rich background of training and experience which should make him eminently qualified to assume the important responsibilities of his new office. He leaves the deanship of Bethel College, a Baptist school, in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he has distinguished himself as an educator and an executive.

Dr. Carlson was born in Alberta, Canada, of Swedish immigrant parentage. His home was one of deep spirituality and friendly hospitality toward visiting Baptist preachers. He was educated in Canada, receiving his B.A. degree in 1927 from the University of Alberta at Edmonton. He has had a life of activity in Baptist work dating back to student days.

In September, 1927, Mr. Carlson began to teach at Bethel Academy, St. Paul, and pursue graduate work at the University of Minnesota. In due time he also became a naturalized American citizen and St. Paul has been his home ever since. In 1931, the Academy became a Junior College, and in 1946, the Junior College became a four year college fully accredited under the University of Minnesota.

This development of Bethel is intimately linked with Mr. Carlson's unusual scholastic, administrative and public relations abilities. During this period of development, Mr. Carlson was first granted an M.A. degree and then a Ph.D. degree. For the Ph.D. degree, majors were completed both in History and in Education with training in research appropriate to each. His dissertation approved by both departments was an historical study of "The Adjustment of the Swedish Immigrant to the American Public School System, 1840-1918." A great deal of the material dealt with is pertinent to our present problems of the relationship of religious training to public education, the relationship of parochial school to public, etc.

Dr. Carlson's career has been closely connected with the advancement at Bethel College. He was made registrar of the new Bethel Junior College in 1932. During the next five years he had a share in establishing the academic routine and standards of that school. In 1945, Mr. Carlson became Acting Dean, and was then elected Dean.

While Dr. Carlson is not an ordained minister, he has been constantly in demand as a speaker and preacher in the churches of the Twin Cities, Minnesota and the Mid West. He is greatly sought for youth meetings, camps, etc., and is noted as a leader of evangelical youth forums in which social issues are discussed against the background of New Testament principles. He is a layman who is greatly depended upon in his local church. He is Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Central Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota. This is a General Conference church which maintains a friendly and cooperative spirit with the American Baptist Convention, and the Baptist World Alliance.

Dr. Carlson has a lovely Christian wife who is sincerely sympathetic in his work. They have one son, employed in St. Paul, and one daughter, a student nurse at Mounds-Midway, our Baptist Hospital in St. Paul.

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CURRENT ISSUES IN WHICH RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IS INVOLVED

1. Recent decrees of the Columbian Government, countersigned by the Papal Nuncio, which direct that all non-Catholic missionaries and pastors, both foreign and national, shall be expelled from territories classified as "missionary". Baptist missionaries are in the area affected. Can U. S. State Department assist in preventing these harsh decrees from going into effect?

2. Suit filed by Jose R. Toledo and others versus the Pueblo de Jemez, N. M., asking right of non-Catholics to bury their dead in the communal cemetery and to permit Protestant missionaries to come and go freely within the pueblo at all reasonable times.

3. Proposed free grant of twenty acres of land owned by the United States Government in Phoenix, Arizona to Brophy College for the purpose of establishing a Jesuit University. The issue involves also the propriety of Baptist institutions receiving free grants of government surplus properties of all kinds; as free gift of \$1.9 million-dollar hospital at Kirkwood, Mo. to Sisters of Charity, St. Louis Archdiocese.

4. Suits filed in Kentucky by citizens committees in cooperation with Protestants and Other Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, to outlaw the employment of garbed nuns in public schools and use of church properties with sectarian symbols as public school classrooms in some twenty-five or more public schools. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has appointed Dr. Denlon Caker to investigate possible Protestant violations in the State also.

5. Imprisonment of four Czechoslovakian Baptist leaders on charges of espionage and treason by the Senate of the Pardubice Regional Court at Chrudim in Eastern Bohemia. These men who have been deprived of their rights as citizens and their property confiscated are: Dr. Jindrich Prochazka, head of the Baptist Training College in Prague, imprisonment 12 years; Jan Ricar, Chairman of the Baptist Brethren Union, 18 years; Cyril Burget, secretary of the Baptist Church in Prague, 7 years; and Michal Kejsar, chairman of the Baptist Brethren Union in Slovakia, 5 years.

6. Possible submission of a peacetime conscription act in the form of Universal Military training to the Congress of the United States.

7. Continued intimation by Congressional Investigating Committees that Protestants as such, among religious forces of the Nation, contain within their ranks the bulk of subversives, thus contributing to the Roman Catholic false contention that the Roman

Church constitutes the one dependable loyal group in our conflict with communism. Baptists have never opposed investigation of subversives, such as Communists, but have vigorously protested methods which lead to false conclusions and infringe upon American freedoms.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON WORLD ISSUES

On June 26 and 27, 1953, four prominent Czechoslovakian Baptist leaders were tried, condemned, and sentenced for espionage and treason by the Senate of the Pardubice Regional Court at Chrudim in Eastern Bohemia. The men involved with the sentences imposed are as follows: Dr. Jindrich Prochazka, head of the Baptist Training College in Prague, imprisonment 12 years; Jan Ricar, Chairman of the Baptist Brethren Union, 18 years; Cyril Burget, secretary of the Baptist Church in Prague, 7 years; and Michal Kejsar, chairman of the Baptist Brethren Union in Slovakia, 5 years. In addition to the prison sentences, all four men were deprived of their rights as citizens and their property was ordered confiscated.

The court reported that all four men had pleaded guilty to the charge of espionage and that Jan Ricar had pleaded guilty also to the charge of high treason. One of the releases connected the Baptist World Alliance and three American Baptist leaders with the espionage activities; namely, Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, Dr. Dana Albaugh and Dr. Edwin A. Bell.

It goes without saying that any contact these three men or any other Baptist leaders in the United States have had with Czechoslovakian Baptists has been in the interest of the material and spiritual welfare of these brothers and sisters and nothing remotely akin to espionage or conspiracy has entered into their activities.

Therefore be it resolved that we express our confidence in the spiritual integrity of our imprisoned Baptist leaders and in our American Baptist leaders named in the news dispatches; that we give widespread publicity to the facts as we know them, and request our government to make the facts available through agencies such as the Voice of America.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

1. Attack on Protestant Churches

Since last we met the Protestant churches of America have come under attack, first through unofficial and un-authorized press releases of members of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and during July in an article by J. B. Mathews in the American Mercury titled "Reds and the Churches".

While fully aware of the grave danger threatening our country through communism, we repudiate the implications that Communists have any real influence in our churches, or that any appreciable number of the Protestant clergy have been victims of Communist propaganda.

The real fact is that the Protestant churches constitute the greatest bulwark against Communism all across the world; that where Protestantism is strongest, democracy and the ideals of freedom are most vigorously upheld.

We rejoice in and will continue to proclaim our great Protestant tradition of freedom of worship, freedom of conscience, freedom of association, freedom of criticism upon which American democracy was founded and has flourished.

We deplore the current practice of some Congressional Committees in releasing to the Press unsubstantiated charges and malicious rumors involving American citizens without first weighing the evidence and giving the person charged full opportunity to appear in his own defense.

We would caution members of our churches, and our fellow citizens alike, to receive with great reservation the general charges of communist activity directed against ministers, government officials, educators, and others. We further urge our people to be certain that what they condemn is actually communism and not merely a social philosophy or political opinion at variance with their own.

2. Universal Military Training

The second session of the 83rd Congress which opens in January 1954 may again be asked by the Administration to enact legislation for a full scale universal military training program. The President's new Commission is expected to make its report sometime in December of this year.

We are opposed to a program of universal military conscription in time of peace. Our several constituent conventions have repeatedly voiced opposition to U. M. T. and we reaffirm our committee action and urge Baptists everywhere to continue to voice their opposition to such a law as un-necessary, un-workable and un-American.

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HEAVY DEMAND ON THE OFFICE FOR LITERATURE

Marked interest in church-state relations is evidenced by recent heavy demand on the office of this Committee for literature bearing on the subject. Students of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, which has an enrollment exceeding 1,500, are writing papers on the subject. The Southern Baptist Brotherhoods, with over 600,000 members, are studying the subject in their monthly discussion assignments. A steady flow of orders for America's Way in Church, State and Society, price \$2.50, latest book by the Executive Director, also is acknowledged.

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IMPORTANT BOOKS

The Irish and Catholic Power. By Paul Blanshard. Beacon Press. \$3.50

This is probably the best of the Blanshard series on Roman Catholic power as related to freedom. It is the product of diligent research, dignified writing, careful documentation and amazing grasp of world issues.

Out of These Roots. By Agnes E. Meyers. Little, Brown and Company. \$4.00

An autobiography of a distinguished American woman whose writings and speeches have constituted a notable contribution to the Nation's ideals, under separation of church and state, especially in the field of public education.

Until Victory: Horace Mann and Mary Peabody. By Louise Hall Thorp. Little, Brown and Company. \$5.00

The author of that most charming book, The Peabody Sisters of Salem, has done it again, created a vivid portrait. This time it is of the father of American public education and his lovely wife seen in the atmosphere of a great period in American history.