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Doors of Its Churches to All Races

By H. L. SCHWARTZ III

PITTSBURGH UP—The Methodist Church, familiar to many only for its strict stand on alcohol and gambling, has come a long way since lay preachers carried its doctrines from England to the new world.

This, in the opinion of liberal and conservative, bishop, pastor and layman, was dramatically demonstrated by the recent two-week Methodist General Conference.

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DESPITE a slow start, there was a distinct feeling among the 900 delegates as the conference closed that they had squarely faced the major problem confronting the nation's second largest Protestant denomination.

That problem was racial integration within the church, how to accept it and keep the church intact.

It was an issue that aroused heated debate and brought such outpouring of discontent as an all-night vigil in two downtown churches and a kneel-in at the conference.

This discontent melted, however, as racial barriers in the church were weakened vote by vote.

The Rev. Dean A. Richardson of Buffalo, N. Y., a leader of the liberals, declared at the start: "This conference obviously intends to do nothing on segregation." At the end he said: "This conference has made very real progress."

BISHOP KENNEDY
Leads Integrators

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LOOKING back, Bishop Gerald Kennedy of Los Angeles, regarded as a spokesman for modern Methodism, said:

"This general conference intimated the whole church was behind any man who is behind integration. This has never been stated as it was here. We have done the very best we could. The alternative was a split in the church."

Bishop Lloyd Wicke, president of the Council of Bishops, said "We have shown the world we aren't kidding any more."

Dissent came from the Southern delegates, who felt the conference moved too far too fast.

"They have closed many doors," said Edd Gentry, a lay delegate from Jacksonville, Fla. "We came here with an open mind. We had no chip on our shoulder. Now we have to go back and start again."

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THE PROBLEM was simply started. Delegates could either adopt or reject a plan to speed elimination of the church's central jurisdiction.

The church has six jurisdictions. Five are set up on a geographical basis. The sixth is the central, established by 1939 amendment to the Methodist constitution to represent all the church's 375,000 Negro members. The amendment, opposed by Negroes, brought back into the fold a split that occurred in 1844 over a bishop's owning slaves.

After long debate, the conference voted to eliminate the central jurisdiction. But it is a gradual and voluntary plan and it will take four years to complete. There is no guarantee of success.

In the waning days of the conference other resolutions and amendments passed quickly.

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ONE DECLARED it the right of all Methodists to join in civil disobedience. Another set up a fund to help ministers and laymen who suffer economic hardship by taking part in racial demonstrations. Still another declared it the duty of every Methodist to work for an end to segregation in his church and his community.

None of these is binding or punishable. But in one of its final acts the conference threw open the doors of all Methodist churches to persons of all races and implied that failure to do so was punishable by censure or expulsion.

There was some question on this. The wording is vague, saying only that persons of all races are "eligible to attend worship services." But it was inserted in the Discipline, the church's rule book, and Bishop Kennedy said: "A minister, superintendent or bishop can be brought to trial. I don't see any other interpretation."

FRANKFURT, Germany (UPI)—A former death camp inmate Thursday told a war crimes trial that when a Gestapo man showed grief about pushing Jewish children in gas chambers, "his comrades shoved that nervous SS man into the gas chamber with the kids."

Ex-Gestapo men Wilhelm Boger and Oswald Dakuk, two of the 22 men accused of helping kill millions at Auschwitz, grinned at each other during witness Jan Pilecki's testimony. The witness told how the alleged former Auschwitz torture master once asked a trusty how to get a new bathtub for his house. The trusty, told Boger he could have gotten one from an inmate named Jacobowski.

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"OH, THAT'S too bad. I just shot Jacobowski. If I had known, I wouldn't have done it," Boger said, according to Pilecki, an engineer with the Polish trade mission in Tokyo.

Boger, called "the cruelest man" and "the angel of death" at the Nazi wartime death camp, nodded his head in agreement when Pilecki described assembly line executions.

Pilecki, an inmate forced to keep lists of Gestapo execution victims at the camp, said the Nazi Storm Troopers could and did "try, condemn and execute" inmates in 60 seconds. The Gestapo kept stacks of death warrants handy, he said.

The 53-year-old witness said the Gestapo kept condemned men and women in basement cells at their prison—within-a-prison. They "dusted it out"—shot all the inmates—as often as four times a month, Pilecki said.

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Nominations Are Now Open for 1964's
FATHER OF THE YEAR

Here's your opportunity to make Dad more proud than ever.

Read the simple rules and mail your entry!

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 29 SO HURRY!

Each year at this time the Independent, Press-Telegram chooses the "Father of the Year" chosen from the nominations written in to us by our readers. Undoubtedly among your family or friends you know of an outstanding father . . . tell us about him! He will be awarded many valuable prizes if he is chosen FATHER OF THE YEAR. It's easy . . . fun . . . rewarding. Here's all you do! Simply nominate (in 100 words or less) a man you know deserving of the title "Father of the Year." The nominee does not have to be a resident of Long Beach, but may reside anywhere in the trade territory served by this newspaper. Persons making nominations need not be a relative of the man they would have honored. Entries have been received for scoutmasters, ministers, school teachers and merchants who are doing youth work. The entry should give the reasons why, in the writer's opinion, the nominee deserves the honor, listing some actual instances where the man has done outstanding work. Neatness of the writing or spelling will have no bearing on the decision by the judges. It is important to include the nominee's full name, address and phone number . . . at well as the writer if they differ. Deadline for submitting a nominee in the contest is midnight, Friday, May 29. This will give the judges ample time to check all entries. Entries should be submitted in 100 words or less to the:

"Father of the Year Contest"
Independent, Press-Telegram
604 Pine Ave.
Long Beach, California 90801

There will be a special section in the Sunday Independent, Press-Telegram announcing the winner with his picture on the cover. This will appear Sunday, June 14, a week ahead of Father's Day. In the special section will be advertisements and stories on special gifts and gift suggestions to honor Dad.

Long Beach Area Retail Firms are contributing these outstanding awards to 1964's FATHER OF THE YEAR:

$85.00 Mohara Suit from Huffman's, Broadway at Pine, Long Beach

$20.00 Tax of Van Heusen Vacation Shirts from Walker's, 4th and Pine, Long Beach

$5.00 Bottle of Helen Lathert After-Shave Lotion for Men plus $2.50 companion After-Shave Stick and Deodorant Stick from Schlett's, 7th and Pine, Long Beach

$18.95 Men's Slacks from Foreman & Clark, Lakewood Center and 146 Pine, Long Beach

6 Handsome Ties valued at $15.00 from Columbia, 1st and Pacific, Long Beach

Gourmet Dinner for Two at Cafe Lafayette in the Lafayette Hotel, Broadway at Linden

$10.00 Gift Certificate from Ted's Men's Wear, 3820 Anaheim St., Long Beach

$15.00 — 1 year's supply of Men's Ser from Denny's Men's Shop, 5310 E. South St. Lakewood

$15.95 Work Bench from Bergstrom's Plywood & Lumber Co., 3843 Rosecrans, Bellflower

$10.00 Camellia Plant from Park Nursery, 3347 E. 10th, Long Beach

$5.00 Van Heusen Dress Shirt from Chasin's Men's Wear, 5412 E. Spring St. in the Plaza Shopping Center

$10.00 Extra Sole Set from Atomic Gift Shop, 3370 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach

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Annual Theatre Pass for the Family from West Coast Theatre, 332 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach

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