

April 9, 1960

March Has Several
'Firsts' For Baptists

By Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press Staff Writer

Southern Baptists recorded several "Firsts" during the month of March.

On Mar. 1, the Convention became the first denomination in the United States to have a private leased wire teletype network. It links 25 Baptist offices in 19 cities on a six-month experimental basis. It has stimulated increased flow of Baptist news and has provided a swift means of inter-office communication over many miles.

The denomination closed out the month with its first nationwide Sunday School Convention in Fort Worth, Tex. More than 15,000 persons attended sessions.

Three members of Baptist churches claimed to be the first to have read the entire Bible during 1960. Reading the Bible through is an emphasis on teaching and training this year. Two of the claimants lived in Georgia, one in Mississippi.

Baptist relationships through the Baptist Jubilee Advance and through other religious channels occupied the attention of the denomination during March.

Theodore F. Adams, Richmond, Va., president of the Baptist World Alliance, said Baptists around the world have become interested in the Baptist Jubilee Advance, designed as a North American observance.

The Advance lasts through 1964, the year of the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work on a national scale in North America. Each of seven Baptist groups in North America engaged in the Baptist Jubilee Advance has set goals to reach during this period of time.

But another speaker, J. C. Herrin of Chapel Hill, N. C., labeled the Baptist Jubilee Advance a "polite form of sheep stealing" when he addressed 100 Baptist seminary students in Nashville, Tenn.

Herrin is one of three workers from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies employed to organize new American Baptist Convention efforts in the South.

Herrin also praised the National Council of Churches and said Southern Baptists are misinformed about it.

Paul O. Madsen, New York City, the Societies' associate secretary, said American Baptists will not organize new work in the South without specific invitations from church groups. "We will not respond to dissident members of churches," he said.

The Societies employed their third worker during March. Clifford G. Hansen of Granville, Ohio, will have the status a state executive secretary and lead the organization of new work in the South from his office in Philadelphia, Pa.

One of Southern Baptists' major movements during the Baptist Jubilee Advance is that of establishing 30,000 new churches and missions during a period from June 1, 1956, to the jubilee year of 1964.

C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., director of the 30,000 Movement began a search for the first new church organized during the movement.

W. A. Harrell of Nashville, Tenn., secretary of church architecture service for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, showed what the movement will mean to church building.

more

April 9, 1960

Baptist Press

He told a group of architects that Southern Baptist Convention churches will spend \$2 to \$3 billion during the decade of the 1960's for church expansion. This is double the evaluation of the property of Southern Baptist churches at present. It will be about one-fifth of the entire amount spent for church construction in the United States during the decade, according to Harrell.

The effect of church extension manifested itself another way. The Convention's Home Mission Board reported church loan funds are not adequate to meet the demand for them. It called for a conference in April with leaders of the Convention's Executive Committee. Together they will seek ways to stretch church loan fund dollars.

The Home Mission Board lends the funds for church construction. The churches benefiting most are those in frontier areas which can not secure loans from commercial sources.

Southern Baptists prepared for two meetings later in the year. Programs of the Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary of the Convention; the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; the Ministers Wives' Conference; the Church Music Conference, and the Religious Education Association were released.

Each will be held during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach, Fla., May 16-20. The Convention program already had been released.

The other meeting is the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in late June.

Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists celebrated its 14th anniversary. Dr. R. G. Lee, retiring pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., was to be honored. Convention President Ramsey Pollard of Knoxville, Tenn., had been called to succeed Lee as pastor of the Convention's second largest church.

Southern Baptists conduct an extensive work with Negro Baptists, according to a survey widely publicized during March. This includes leadership training and joint denominational work in the United States and heavy expenditures for missions in Africa by the Convention's Foreign Mission Board.

-30-

Baptist Writers'
Association Formed

(4-9-60)

JONESBORO, La.--(BP)--A groups of Baptist journalists not employed in full-time church-related editorial service are forming the Baptist Writers' Association.

The steering committee members are David E. Mason, pastor, First Baptist Church here; Mrs. Marjorie Moore Armstrong, Springfield, Mo., wife of O. K. Armstrong of Reader's Digest staff, and R. Lofton Hudson, Kansas City, Mo., who has a private counseling office.

Mason is a regular contributor to Southern Baptist periodicals. So is Mrs. Armstrong, a former editorial staff member of Baptist agencies. Hudson has written a column for Baptist state papers answering subscribers who desired spiritual counsel.

The Baptist Writers' Association will be open only to Baptist writers not presently employed in a professional editorial position in Christian work. Another requirement for membership is the publication of a book "by a reputable publisher on a speculative basis" or three published articles for which the writers received payment.

-30-

Justice Douglas Will
Lecture At Georgetown

(4-9-60)

GEORGETOWN, Ky.--(BP)--Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court of the United States was to deliver the annual Danford Thomas Lecture at Georgetown College (Baptist) here.

Justice Douglas's topic was "Democracy vs. Communism in Asia."

-30-

April 9, 1960

Baptist Press

Delegation. Already
On Its Way To Rio

SYDNEY, Australia--(BP)--The first large delegation to leave home for the 10th Baptist World Congress is sailing now for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There are 40 persons in the party.

They'll make the voyage the long way, stopping first in North America. The Congress isn't scheduled until June 26-July 3.

Baptists from every state in the Australian commonwealth and one Baptist from pioneer work in New Guinea are aboard the S. S. Himalaya. The vessel will stop at Auckland, New Zealand, to pick up Baptists from that country.

In Washington, Arnold T. Ohrn, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, greeted news of the sailing -- more than three months before the Congress opens -- as evidence of the world-wide nature of the Rio meeting. Some 20,000 Baptists, representative of the world's 23 million Baptists in 106 countries, are expected.

Receptions have been arranged for the party as it makes its way to North America, then to South America. New Zealand Baptists were to greet them at Auckland. Methodists planned a welcoming party at Suva, capital of the Fiji Islands. Representatives of both the American and Southern Baptist Conventions planned fellowship in Hawaii.

After arriving in North America, the Baptists from "down under" will spend two months visiting Baptist work in the United States and Canada.

The delegates will wear a large plastic emblem with the legend: "Baptist World Alliance Congress, June 1960. Australian Delegate. Rio de Janeiro."

-30-

Baptists Promote
Jewish Fellowship

(4-9-60)

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)--Southern Baptists will promote closer fellowship with the 5-1/2 million Jewish people in the United States during one week of April.

Jewish Fellowship Week "has become a traditional observance of Southern Baptists with increasing results each year," according to William B. Mitchell, Atlanta, superintendent of Jewish work of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board.

April 18-24, the date set for the Fellowship this year, falls during the Jewish Passover and Christianity's Easter.

"If all denominations promoted the same type service, there would be much more understanding and less conflict between religious groups in this country," said one man in Miami, Fla., where the week has been observed successfully for many years and explained on local television stations.

Local churches provide an opportunity for the Jewish people of the community to see the workings of the Baptist Sunday school and Training Union, to attend special services, and to have fellowship with pastors and members. They are encouraged to ask questions about what they see and hear during the week.

Survey statistics are used to be sure that no Jew misses an invitation to the services. Definite plans are made and executed to see that each feels welcome and is invited to return, Mitchell added.

-30-

\$1 Million Building
Set For Wake Forest

(4-9-60)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--Wake Forest College here has entered into a contract for constructing a life sciences building which will cost \$1,085,854.

The new building will house departments of biology and psychology. Funds for the three-story building were raised last year by local supporters of the Baptist college.

-30-

April 9, 1960

Baptist Press

S B C Registration
Cards Now Available

By Joe W. Burton,
Secretary, Southern Baptist Convention

Registration cards for messengers to the 1960 Southern Baptist Convention are available from each state mission office. The pastor should request these cards in the quantity needed.

Messengers to the Convention, which meets this year in Miami Beach, Fla., May 17-20, should be named by the church in conference. The number of messengers a church may send depends upon membership and support of Convention causes. The Convention constitution provides representation as follows:

Article III. Membership: The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of missionary Baptist churches co-operating with the Convention as follows:

1. One messenger for each regular Baptist church which is in friendly co-operation with this Convention and sympathetic with its purpose and work and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work.

2. One additional messenger from each such church for every 250 members; or for each \$250 paid to the work of the Convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.

3. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by the churches to the convention, but no church may appoint more than ten (10).

Messenger cards should be certified by the moderator or clerk of the church, with the registration cards being properly and fully completed before the messengers present them at the registration desk in Miami Beach.

-30-

Baptist Congress In
Rio Press and TV

(4-9-60)

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil--(BP)--Five major Rio newspapers and two television stations gave news coverage to the Baptist World Alliance following a press conference with denominational leaders. These were the first results of a campaign to intensify the publicity of the forthcoming Congress in Brazil.

At the press conference, held in the Brazilian Press Association's building, various Baptist leaders were heard. David Gomes, head of the local publicity committee for the World Alliance Congress, gave general information about the Congress. He called attention to the fact that this will be the first world Baptist conference to meet in the southern hemisphere.

He gave as highlights of the meeting the roll call of the nations and Billy Graham's giant evangelistic rally. Edgar Hallock, head of the Rio co-ordinating committee, stressed the importance of the Congress and quoted the head of the Brazilian Tourist Bureau as saying the Baptist meeting will probably be the largest in the nation's history from the standpoint of foreign visitors.

Also heard were John Soren, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Rio, and a vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance; Oswaldo Ronis, head of the Rio music committee for the Alliance; and Luciano Lopes, prominent Baptist layman and state councilman.

Missionary Gene Wise, head of the south Brazil mission's publicity committee, reports that special news releases are now being sent to all of Brazil's major newspapers and that photographic coverage will be made available to capital cities.

The Congress opens June 26.

-30-

April 9, 1960

Baptist Press

Cites Anglo-American
Church Differences

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)-- Southern Baptist laymen exercise a bigger rôle in carrying out church work and also have a more prominent part in church services than do British Baptist laymen, the secretary of London Baptist Association said during a visit here.

The minister has charge of the entire church service in England, said W. Charles Johnson, one of three British Baptist preachers visiting the United States. Johnson is also chairman of the governing council of Spurgeon's College.

He noted a number of differences in British and Southern Baptists.

"We have an order of women deaconesses which Southern Baptists do not have," he said, "and I know of four British Baptist women who have been ordained preachers, while Southern Baptists appear to limit the ministerial field to men. Three of these women have served as pastors of churches. One is principal of a college to train women for church and missionary work."

The order of deaconesses includes 60 college-trained women, who wear uniforms to identify them. Many of these deaconesses are serving on new fields, performing all the duties of a pastor, Johnson said. Except for the role of deaconesses, British Baptists' method of starting new church work is similar to that of Southern Baptists.

"We see nothing inconsistent about letting women serve in these fields," he stated. "Women have performed duties of ministers on foreign mission fields for some time."

British Baptist churches, affiliated with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, minister for the most part to youngsters 5-through-16 years old in Sunday school, Johnson said. "Our churches don't have a place for adults or nursery-age children in Sunday school, but we do have a number of societies which nurture spiritual growth.

"We have many youth organizations," Johnson said, "and in some of these the youngsters wear uniforms. Uniforms just naturally appeal to children."

The denomination sponsors several summer schools in vacation spots over England to minister to young people. "We don't have anything like your vacation Bible schools," he said.

"We have more congregational singing in British Baptist churches than in most Southern Baptist churches. We sing more stately hymns and less of the gospel-type songs. We don't have ministers of music. We have choir masters. Some are men, some women. They sing in the choir rather than stand in front and direct the music.

"Our congregations always stand -- without being told -- when they sing hymns. They sit during prayers."

A British Baptist church service usually includes congregational singing of about five hymns, two scripture lessons, prayers, an anthem by the choir, a sermon, and the benediction, Johnson reported. "And like most churches, we take an offering." The services usually are about one hour and 15 minutes in length.

In British Baptist churches, the secretary and treasurer are two key offices, Johnson said. These usually are held by gifted business men, he added. The secretary is in charge of church administration. The pastor of the church presides over the deacons, however.

"Some British Baptist pastors wear clerical gowns or collars, and some do not," Johnson said.

Churches affiliating with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland number approximately 300,000 members, he said.

April 9, 1960

Baptist Press

Chaplaincy Associate
Visits Alaska, Hawaii

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Southern Baptist chaplains at military installations in Alaska and Hawaii will be visited this month (April) by the associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of chaplaincy.

George W. Cummins of Atlanta, Ga., who left for a five-week tour of the two new states, will confer with more than 25 Southern Baptist chaplains. Fairbanks is the first stop on Cummins's Alaska itinerary. He will contact chaplains at military installations near Anchorage and Juneau, then turn south to visit installations in Hawaii.

Southern Baptist chaplains and military personnel stationed in Alaska have been active in starting mission work in Alaska, Cummins says. Since 1956, Baptist mission work in the state has been a co-operative endeavor of the Home Mission Board and the Alaska Baptist Convention, which was organized in 1946. Mission work in Hawaii is under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

En route to Alaska, Cummins will stop at military installations in other states. He will contact state officials in the northwest about institutional and industrial chaplaincy, according to Alfred Carpenter, Atlanta, director of the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission.

-30-

New Orleans Rescue
Worker Dies At 84

(4-9-60)

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--Herbert Hampton Topp, who went to the Baptist Rescue Home in New Orleans, La., seeking help and stayed to serve 31 years as secretary-bookkeeper, died Apr. 5 here.

"He came to the home seeking help, and when they found how highly qualified he was as a secretary, they asked him to stay," said Clovis A. Brantley, Atlanta, superintendent of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's mission centers. The home had been started only two years when Topp, a native of Shannin, Miss., came in 1929. He could read several languages, including French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin, said Brantley. Topp was not an appointee of the Home Mission Board, but had received a small salary. He worked until the time of his death.

The cause of 84-year-old Topp's death was attributed to coronary thrombosis.

-30-

New Orleans Teacher
Receives Fellowship

(4-9-60)

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--James C. Taylor, professor of homiletics at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has been awarded a \$4000 fellowship through the American Association of Theological Schools.

Taylor, a graduate of the seminary and a member of the faculty since 1952, will begin his sabbatical leave in September.

Accompanied by his wife and son, he will make his home in New York during most of the 1960-61 session where he will study at Union Theological Seminary.

During the spring term of 1961 he will work at Oxford University, England.

-30-