

June 15, 1960

Denver May Be Site Of Baptist Hospital

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--Southern Baptists in the Colorado area hope to operate a \$7 million, 300 bed hospital planned for a Denver suburb, according to action by the executive board of Colorado Baptist General Convention here.

The proposed hospital, to be located on 28 acres in Littleton, Colo., will be constructed by Inter-Mountain Underwriters and Western Land Developers after a fund drive to raise the \$7 million. When the hospital is constructed, full ownership and control will pass to the Baptist general convention.

During the construction period a 16-member board of trustees will supervise the project. Nine of the trustees were elected by the Baptist convention, the remaining seven by the developers.

The developers will conduct the fund campaign in the Denver area.

Convention leaders said a Colorado physician should be credited with the hospital being offered to Southern Baptists. The unnamed doctor was impressed by the way Southern Baptists operate hospitals in other states and suggested the developers contact local Baptists about managing it.

T. Sloane Guy, New Orleans, executive secretary of Southern Baptist Hospitals agency, will visit Denver in July to provide counsel in fund-raising and hospital development.

It will be at least two years before the proposed hospital is in a position to admit patients.

Denver has a shortage of 1300 beds in hospital facilities, according to Southern Baptist leaders here.

The long-range plans call for a medical center to include also a clinic, pharmacy, nurses' residence, and other facilities.

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Arizona, Home Board
Elect Missionary

(6-15-60)

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.--(BP)--Major V. Mears, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Flagstaff, has been elected associational missionary for two associations of churches in central Arizona.

He will serve under dual appointment of the executive board of Baptist General Convention of Arizona and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The area he will serve includes Little Colorado and Grand Canyon Associations. The cities of Flagstaff, Winslow, and Holbrook are in these associations. He began new duties June 15.

Mears is a native of Rogers, Tex., and was unofficial chaplain of a prisoner of war camp in Germany during the second World War. He had been called to preach but had not held a pastorate at that time. Under his chaplaincy, two German guards were converted and six prisoners dedicated their lives to the ministry.

Mears has been a member of the Arizona state executive board for six years.

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Baptist Press

Research Specialist
Employed By Board

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--A research specialist who will make special studies of Southern Baptist survey materials has been employed by the denomination's Home Mission Board in Atlanta, effective July 1.

Leonard G. Irwin, a mechanical engineer with five years experience as an analysis engineer for Gulf Power Co., was elected associate secretary of the department of survey and special studies.

Irwin is presently pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Panama City, Fla. He also has a bachelor of divinity degree in church history and master of religious education degree in age group studies from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Survey work, as promoted by the Home Mission Board under the direction of Billy Hargrove, secretary of the department, has recently received national attention with mammoth surveys in metropolitan centers and proposed state-wide surveys now in preparation.

Irwin is a native of Pensacola, Fla. He received his engineering degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, and has served as a pastor for eight and a half years.

"Irwin comes well qualified to lead us in the field of research," Arthur Rutledge, Atlanta, director of the missions division, said. "His seminary education and pastoral experience will enable him to approach the work with a knowledge of Southern Baptist needs and aims. He also will lead in some less intensive surveys, designed to reveal quickly needs and sites for new missions and churches in the 30,000 Movement."

Irwin is married and has two daughters. His other pastorate were at McDavid, Fla., and Hazlehurst, Miss. He presently is moderator of his association and on the Florida Baptist state board of missions.

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Colorado Assembly
Sets Pioneer Week

(6-15-60)

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--The executive board of Colorado Baptist General Convention has appointed a grounds manager for its new 1433 acre assembly near Colorado Springs, Colo.

He is R. S. Dickson, of Canon City, Colo.

The assembly site's pioneer week will be staged Aug. 1-5 this year with John P. Baker, a Colorado Springs pastor, directing the program.

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North Carolina
Steps Up 30,000

(6-15-60)

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--North Carolina Baptists have instituted a program for informing church and associational leaders of ways and means of stepping up 30,000 Movement activities. This movement of Southern Baptists is an effort to establish 30,000 new churches and missions by 1964.

The state's 30,000 committee, led by Chairman Lowell Spivey of Raleigh, planned five regional meetings for all state and associational leaders.

A dual purpose initiated this action, said C. C. Warren, of Charlotte, director of the 30,000 Movement: 1) To give emphasis to the establishment of institutional missions, and 2) To get the Movement closer to the hearts of the people. The state's 3336 Southern Baptist churches started only 29 new churches last year, said Warren, when there was need for 600.

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"I have repeatedly stated that the 30,000 Movement will succeed or fail at the associational level," said Warren. "In these meetings we spent most of the afternoons checking, discussing, and emphasizing the importance of the work of the associational missions committee."

The more than 400 leaders attending the five meetings were apprized of ways to discover new areas of mission needs in associations, of the churches' responsibility, and of opportunities for mission service in institutions.

"I commend this type of conference . . . to other states," said Douglas M. Branch, Raleigh, general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. "If I had it to do over again . . . instead of having five conferences, we would plan for 10; and, instead of doing it in a week, we would take two or three weeks. I believe its importance merits whatever time is required in getting the idea across," he said.

About 80 per cent of the associational missionaries in North Carolina attended the conferences, and they now feel that they are the channels through which the challenge must largely get to the people in the churches, according to Spivey. These meetings produced on-the-spot discussion of the problems that had hindered many churches and associations from initiating the Movement," he said.

The meetings uncovered 50 new churches and missions which had not been reported previously, according to Director Warren.

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Brotherhood To Add
\$120,000 Structure

(6-15-60)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--A three-story addition to the Baptist Brotherhood Commission office will be constructed here at a cost of more than \$120,000.

George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention agency for men and boys, said construction would begin June 13.

The contractor, C & B Construction Co. of Memphis, expects to complete the 11,000 square feet, air conditioned building within five months.

The addition will contain more office space quarter . . . the art department, a photographic darkroom, an automatic elevator, additional shipping space, and eventually a chapel.

The new unit will cover most of a parking lot in the rear of the present building. It will join the present building in two sections.

The Commission had purchased an adjoining lot in the rear of its property for off-street parking.

Schroeder said the addition is needed to keep pace with the rapid growth of Southern Baptist mens' and boys' work.

Currently more than 625,000 men and boys in 46 states and several foreign countries are enrolled in the program directed by the Commission.

The men's work is done through Brotherhoods, now located in more than 15,000 Baptist churches, and the boys' work through Royal Ambassadors, which has chapters in more than 14,000 churches.

The new unit will raise the Brotherhood Commission's Memphis investment to more than \$370,000, Schroeder said.

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Inquiries Received
By American Workers

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--Baptists in Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, and New Mexico are inquiring about the possibility of becoming affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, according to Convention leaders.

Paul O. Madsen, New York, Associate secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, explained here that these are not necessarily overtures from churches affiliated with other conventions.

In Florida, he declared, there are Baptists from the North--retired and living in the Sunshine State--who are interested in forming American Baptist-related congregations.

Other overtures are from churches not now affiliated with any convention.

He did not name specific localities in the states, except for the St. Petersburg area--a popular retirement center--in Florida.

He said that the work in the South also includes the states of Georgia and Texas, where in the last 12 months churches have become affiliated with the American Convention.

These are the College Heights Baptist Church of Port Neches, Tex., and the Highland Park Baptist Church of Augusta.

He restated the position that the American Convention's three home missionaries in the South will not seek churches now affiliated with other conventions, nor will they respond to dissident members of Baptist churches.

The three missionaries are J. C. Herrin of Chapel Hill, N. C., working with American-related Negro colleges in the South;

William B. Hill of Asheville, N. C., now assisting in the development of a church in Jefferson City, Mo. Hill will be a pastoral missionary who spends four to six months with a new church, helping it get started, and;

Clifford G. Hansen, of Philadelphia, who will have the rank of an executive secretary of a state convention. He will interpret the American Convention to Southerners inquiring about affiliation and report their interest to the Home Mission Societies.

Madsen, however, reported "We're under enough pressure from those in our own family in the South" without thinking about originating work beyond this scope at the moment.

There are some dually aligned churches in the South, affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., and the American Convention. In Missouri and the District of Columbia, there have long been churches co-operating with both Southern and American Conventions.

Will there be more churches in the South desiring dual Southern-American affiliations? Madsen and Hansen said they don't know; it hasn't come up yet. "We are willing to explore the matter if it arises," they said.

They reported several American Baptist ministers, generally with some Southern background, have expressed interest in becoming pastors of new American congregations in the South.

Until the recent American Convention policy of responding to overtures from Baptists in the South, their work in the area consisted of the Negro colleges they have long supported, and Bacone College in Oklahoma.

Madsen reported that Hill, Hansen, and Herring work in three separate divisions of the Home Mission Societies--Hill in the division of church extension and building counsel; Herring in the executive division, and Hansen in the division of church missions.

Madsen, in addition to being associate secretary, heads the Societies' division of church missions.

Any relationships among the three Southern area field workers will be through the headquarters council of the Home Mission Societies, Madsen continued. The headquarters council includes the seven division heads and W. H. Rhoades, New York, executive secretary of the Societies.

Madsen, who was a pastor in Boulder, Colo., when the first Southern Baptist church came to that city, said he hopes all contacts with Southern Baptists will be ones of mutual good will and friendliness.

Since the American Convention adopted its recent policy on Southern work, a number of Southern Baptist state papers have commented on it. Most editors have expressed no resentment, but instead have concurred in one way or another with the decision to accept churches in the South for affiliation.