

August 18, 1960

**Atlanta Churches Face  
New "Kneel-In" Incidents**

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Atlanta faced the second Sunday of Negro college students attempting to worship in white churches.

The students were successful in five churches: First Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal, Central Presbyterian, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, and the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist.

At First Baptist three negroes accepted seats, along with a number of whites, at an auxiliary auditorium used for overflow audiences.

"Negroes were turned away or they refused segregated seating at Grace Methodist Church where they were accepted last Sunday, at Druid Hills Baptist, The Baptist Tabernacle, and at Druid Hills Methodist."

Many churches have held meetings of deacons and similar groups to decide what procedure they should take in the event negroes appeared. Some have decided to seat them in the back and along sides.

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**First Spanish Church  
Constituted In Detroit**

(8-18-60)

DETROIT, Mich.--(BP)--The second Southern Baptist Spanish Church in Michigan and the first in Detroit was constituted with 37 charter members.

The announcement came from Harold T. Gruver, mission pastor of the Spanish congregation at Adrian, Mich. Gruver, a former missionary to Panama, now serves as a language missionary under Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board.

The first Southern Baptist Spanish Church of Detroit, which began as a mission last April, called Francisco Lemus as pastor. Spanish people number 50,000 in the Detroit area according to Gruver.

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**Lawrence Lowrey Injured  
In Auto Accident**

(8-18-60)

BROOKHAVEN, Miss.--(BP)--Dr. Lawrence T. Lowrey, who has just retired as president of Blue Mountain College, is in Kings Daughters' Hospital here as a result of an auto accident near here late Sunday.

Lowrey suffered a broken collar bone, one broken rib, a fractured knee and numerous glass cuts and was reported to be resting as well as could be expected.

He was alone and enroute to his new home in Baton Rouge at the time of the collision with another car in a heavy rain.

The occupants of the other car, Mr. and Mrs. John Gillespie and two children, of Jackson, were also injured but not seriously.

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Gruver Named Book  
Editor For Home Board

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Miss Kate Eller Gruver, children's book editor for Broadman Press and former missionary in Palestine, was named book editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga.

Miss Gruver, with the Broadman Press books department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. since 1952, will edit the graded mission study books, teacher's guides, and tracts published by the Home Mission Board.

"The coming of Miss Gruver of Oct. 1 will greatly strengthen the publication work of the Home Mission Board," said L. O. Griffith, director of the division of education and promotion. "Her experience as an editor, as a missionary, and her consecration qualify her for this position in an excellent way." She will serve in the editorial department of which Walker Knight is secretary.

From birth her life has taken on an international flavor. She was born in Ancon, Canal Zone, where her father, Fleetwood Gruver, was in the United States public health service, working with General Gorgas during the building of the canal.

Elementary education came from schools in Mexico and Texas. She attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. and received her bachelor of science degree from Tennessee College for Women at Murfreesboro. Then followed a master's degree from Radcliffe College at Cambridge and another from Carver School of Missions and Social Service at Louisville, Ky.

From 1938 to 1950 she served as a missionary in Palestine under the Foreign Mission Board. Most of her work as a missionary was in Nazareth and the surrounding area, as well as the establishment of a full-graded elementary school. During this period she helped to found the George W. Truett Home for Children and served as its superintendent for five years.

At the Sunday School Board since 1952, she first served as manuscript editor but since 1954 has been children's book editor. She has also been active in civic and publishing groups in Nashville.

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Wichita Church Minority  
Takes Care to Count

(8-18-60)

WICHITA, Kan.--(BP)--Tribble-plagued and pastorless First Baptist church of Wichita, Kan., previously affiliated with the American Baptist convention, now has had its difficulties taken to District Court, to be heard Sept. 2.

An organized group called the "American Baptist Group" has filed suit to retain church property and funds, and to enjoin the defendants from coming abut the property and interfering with the building, funds, or business affairs.

The plaintiffs claim an "irreconcilable conflict" exists between two factions in the congregation and that the two groups no longer can live in peace and harmony because of previous actions taken by the church.

Fighting the National Council of Churches and Communism, members of First Baptist approved a resolution March 9 from her board of deacons which called for the church to withdraw any and all funds and financial support to the American Baptist convention "for the reason that the said ABC and its affiliated organizations are apparently in full support of the policies and plans of the National Council of Churches and that these ... are not in accordance with the faith and practices of the First Baptist church of Wichita, Kansas."

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In order to completely withdraw the church from the ABC, July 13 the church passed a resolution to withdraw from the national, state, and city organizations with which it held affiliation. Nothing has ever been mentioned by the church in a business meeting, however, that it intends to join the Southern Baptist convention, or any other particular denomination.

Leading the list of defendants is F. B. Thorn, retired pastor of the church. He will supply the pulpit Aug. 28 and stay through the hearings beginning Sept. 2. Assistant pastor Jesse Vardeman is still serving on the staff, although he is also a defendant.

Plaintiffs contend that in custom, tradition, and doctrine the congregation should be affiliated with the ABC. It was pointed out that the congregation, said to have been organized about 1870, has been affiliated with the ABC since 1907.

It was further contended that an obligation of such affiliation is the contribution of financial support and the sending of representation to meetings of the national convention. (The church was the largest of the ABC having some 4300 members.) It is alleged that the resolution passed March 9 departs from doctrines and customs and was passed over the objection of the plaintiffs and those they represent. The church has told its organizations to discontinue programming anything which has ABC origin.

Several members of the church in Wichita were asked if local Southern Baptist church members and pastors had asked them to change their personal membership, or, to encourage First Baptist to become affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. They said emphatically, "no".

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Cole Speaks At  
WMU Conference

(8-18-60)

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--More than 2500 delegates to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly were told Aug. 15:

"The evangelical approach to mission work in Mexico is through love and understanding of the people. Their religion, that of Catholicism, has much in common with ours, but they don't feel that Christ is sufficient."

Lamar Cole, Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico, continued, "the insecurity in the minds of the Mexican people makes them reach for something more solid than their Catholic faith. They are ready to hear about Christ. I am much impressed with their faith and devotion because many must sacrifice much, including their homes, families, and friends, in order to become Christians."

In conclusion, Dr. Cole stated, "the greatest need for Mexico is for the missionaries to exhibit christian love. Only as we gain the confidence of the people can we tell them about Christ. Through the ministry of medicine we have reached many people. By doing this we follow Christ's example of first healing the body, then healing the soul."

Preceding Dr. Cole's message, Mrs. Louise Paw, missionary to Burma, and Miss Mercy Rao, of India, told of their experiences while serving on the foreign mission field.

The WMU conference at Ridgecrest is directed by Mrs. R. L. Mathis, of Waco, Tex., president, and Miss Alma Hunt, of Birmingham, Ala., executive secretary of the organization.

Ridgecrest Assembly is owned and operated by the Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

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