

September 3, 1960

Southern Baptists Hold
Meeting In New York

NEW YORK, N. Y.--(BP)--Southern Baptist expansion into the northeastern section of the United States was underscored here when 221 representatives from 65 churches and missions in a 10-state area met at Manhattan Baptist Church for the northeastern regional fellowship.

"This was a surprisingly large attendance and representation. The work in these states is only six years old," Courts Redford of Atlanta, Ga., executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said. "The highlight of the meeting was the report of area and pastoral missionaries."

One such report was made by Pastoral Missionary R. Z. Boroughs of Massena, N. Y., who said there were 22 towns with a population of up to 7,000 in the northwestern section of the state without a Baptist witness. Boroughs led in the organizing of the first church of the entire 10-state area, at Niagara Falls in 1954.

Joseph Waltz of Pittsburgh, Pa., pastor-director of Southern Baptist work in Pittsburgh, reported only one Baptist church to every 40,000 people. Such was the report in area after area of the 10 states, which include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

The meeting, held to acquaint the membership of the churches in the area with the total program of Southern Baptists and to focus the denomination's attention on the area's opportunities, formed no permanent organization, but did vote to meet next year in September at Syracuse, N. Y.

"We must not let our sense of mission ever die," Albert McClellan of Nashville, Tenn., program secretary for the denomination's Executive Committee, said. "This is the thing that binds Baptists together." He continued, "We must teach our laymen that the task is on their shoulders."

McClellan referred to men like Col. John L. Parker of Dover Air Force Base, who with others provided the leadership in mission work until ministers could be secured.

Representatives for all of the denomination's boards were there. Miss Alma Hunt, of Birmingham, Ala., executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, said, "We can't even conceive of what God can do in this area through such dedicated people," and she added later, "The 30,000 Movement is a church-centered program and the WMU is dedicated to this program through promotion and money to have its women and young people support it."

The 30,000 Movement is a program of Southern Baptists in which 10,000 churches and 20,000 missions are to be established between 1956 and 1965. The originator and director of the Movement, C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., was present at the fellowship meeting.

"God has sounded a trumpet call for Southern Baptists in a special way and this is to stem the tide of a downward civilization, and the 30,000 Movement is the answer," Warren announced.

Such areas as these 10 states are providing the opportunities for reaching the goal. According to A. B. Cash of Atlanta, Ga., secretary of the Home Mission Board's department of pioneer missions, there are now 2,900 Southern Baptist churches in the 30 states entered by the denomination since 1941. Before this, there were only 78 churches in these 30 states.

Southern Baptists until 1941 had been active only in the Southern and a few Western states. With the outbreak of World War II and the shifting of the nation's population, the denomination began expansion into other states in response to calls from members already there.

"We feel that, to be as well churched from a Baptist standpoint as some of our Southern states, the northeastern region needs 30,000 Baptist churches," Cash said.

Work in the northeastern states has been sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with offices in Atlanta, Ga., in co-operation with the state conventions of Ohio and Maryland.

Present for the meeting were executive secretaries of all three groups: Redford of the Home Mission Board; Roy D. Gresham of Baltimore, the Maryland Baptist Union Association, and Ray Roberts of Columbus, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

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Oklahoma Baptists
Report Growth

(9-3-60)

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--Southern Baptist churches in Oklahoma had a net membership gain of 100,000 during the past nine years, pushing total number of members in Oklahoma past the 450,000 mark.

This and other gains are reported here by T. B. Lackey, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, on his ninth anniversary in the post.

The letter reports a net increase of 153 churches and 182,000 baptisms during that time.

Total amount of money churches receive from their congregations has increased from \$10 million annually to \$20 million, Lackey said. Annual mission gifts from churches increased from \$1,718,000 in 1951 to \$3,705,000 in 1959.

"Convention assets have increased from approximately \$8 million to more than \$21 million," according to Lackey. Valuation of property owned by individual churches has increased from \$35 million to \$82 million.

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New Doctors' Building

(9-3-60)

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--400 persons attended a ceremony during which ground was broken for a new doctors' office building adjacent to Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oklahoma City.

The building, expected to cost nearly \$1 million, is being erected by a Baptist laymen's corporation, organized in Oklahoma last February. It will be four stories high and also will include a basement with underground walkway linking it to the \$4,600,000 hospital, which opened in the spring of 1959.

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Folks & facts.....

.....John R. Claypool, assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., has been called as pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. He will succeed Rollin S. Burhans, chosen to head the new Baptist college being developed in Louisville.
(BP)

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Unlikely Convention
To Attain Full Goal

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program budget will enter its advance phase this year but appears unlikely it will reach the full goal of \$13½ million.

The Convention needs \$16,386,900 to meet the operating and capital needs of all the agencies for the current year. Through August, \$11,423,882 has come to the office of Convention Treasurer Porter Routh here.

All funds received through the Cooperative Program above \$16,386,900 will be in the advance section of the budget and are to be divided 75 per cent for foreign missions and 25 per cent for home missions.

To reach the full \$13½ million--which includes over \$2 million in the advance stage--the Convention receipts should have amounted to about \$12-1/3 million at this time of the year.

So far the increase over 1959 Cooperative Program income has been only 2 per cent. The 1959 receipts for eight months stand at \$11,199,641. The rate of gain for 1960 over 1959 does not match the 8.08 per cent shown for 1959 over 1958 at the eighth month.

August Cooperative Program receipts--not including amounts retained by the state Baptist bodies for their activities--reported here were \$1,416,493. Designated gifts received during the same month totaled \$189,317. (Figures also do not include amounts spent locally by churches.)

So far in 1960, designations have come to \$10,917,782, a rise of 11.12 per cent over 1959 at this point. Total S B C receipts for January-August this year stand at \$22,341,664 compared with \$21,024,971 a year ago for a gain of 6.26 per cent.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Convention has received well over half the total S B C funds this year--\$13½ million having been disbursed through August. About one-fifth of the total--\$4,402,905--has gone to home missions.