

November 27, 1960

**Baptist Migrant
Missionary On TV**

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--A Southern Baptist missionary to migrants was interviewed when the Columbia Broadcasting System television network presented the story of migratory farm workers.

Network news correspondent Edward R. Murrow was the reporter on a "CBS Reports" program titled "Harvest of Shame."

Beginning early last spring, Producer David Lowe and a camera crew traveled northward with workers from Belle Glade, Fla. They filmed workers in the fields, in crowded trucks and busses, and in the dirty shacks that served as temporary homes.

The "CBS Reports" team followed another group of workers along the Atlantic coast, three "free-wheeling" families, and other workers in Kingsland, Ga.; Fayetteville, N. C., and Holland, Mich.

U. S. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell; Michael Cassidy, a Southern Baptist home missionary who travels with the migrants; a spokesman for California growers, and a teacher in a New Jersey school for migrant children were among those interviewed.

Secretary of Labor Mitchell called migratory farm workers "the excluded Americans" because some of the Federal laws that protect other American laborers do not apply to them. Others revealed what farmers are doing to improve the migrants' living and working conditions.

Cassidy, who was educated in Argentina and Italy, has served with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a missionary to Spanish-speaking people and to migrants for more than 16 years.

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**Southern Baptists
Honor Tentmakers**

(11-27-60)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Southern Baptists have honored four participants in the denomination's tentmaker movement, a plan which places self-supporting workers on United States mission fields.

Kenneth King of Green Bay, Wis., was named honor tentmaker contact for 1960; Miss Elsie Hayes, honor permanent tentmaker, and college students Deanna Davis and Jerry Windsor outstanding summer workers.

The announcement was made by Glendon McCullough of Atlanta, Ga., personnel secretary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Under the plan, a Southern Baptist supports himself and assists in the work of local churches and missions. The tentmakers are most active in pioneer areas of Southern Baptist work.

More than 1400 men and women have served under the tentmakers plan since the movement started in 1951, and 208 served this year, according to McCullough. Honors for those rendering outstanding service began in 1957.

Miss Hayes, the permanent tentmaker honored, teaches art in the public schools of Pike County, Ky., working in the local church and its missions in her spare time. According to her pastor in Phelps, Ky., her work was outstanding during this year, that the state mission board in Kentucky assisted her financially during the summer. This enabled her to remain to help with Bible schools and youth camps.

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The tentmaker contact for 1960 utilized four tentmakers during the summer months. King, who is pastoral missionary in the Green Bay, Wis., area and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, has requested tentmakers for three consecutive years, scouting jobs for them beforehand.

Miss Davis, a native of Ashland, Ky., and a student at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., worked as a clerk-typist in a Silver Springs, Md., laboratory. There she led the youth program at Georgia Ave. Baptist Church, laying the groundwork for a permanent program. She organized a youth council, youth fellowships, and led youth workshops and retreats, according to Pastor Lafon Campbell.

Windsor, a native of Webb, Ala., and a student at Howard College in Birmingham, served as a volunteer worker in First Baptist Church of Longview, Wash., and worked for Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. In nominating Windsor for the honor, educational minister Sidney Schmidt revealed that Windsor assisted the pastor in many church activities, including the sponsoring of a new mission. "A number of the men who worked with Jerry, who were not Christians, gave outstanding reports. His employer . . . wants him to come back to work next summer," said Schmidt.

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Work Flourishes
In Tense Cuba

(11-27-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Southern Baptist work in Fidel Castro's Cuba flourishes in spite of severe tensions and uncertainties.

So reported leaders of the denomination's Home Mission Board following a trip to the island where they conferred with Baptist leaders of western Cuba concerning the budget and program for 1961.

A "modest expansion" of work is anticipated in 1961, despite the return to the United States of one missionary family who had worked with English-speaking residents of Havana.

Making the trip were Arthur Rutledge, director of the board's missions division, and Loyd Corder, secretary of the language groups ministries department.

"In view of the excellent response to the Gospel which we found in Cuba at this time," Rutledge reported, "it is expected that the Home Mission Board will make a modest expansion of the work there in keeping with what is being done on other home mission fields."

Both Rutledge and Corder were pleased with results of an evangelistic crusade just closed in the Havana province where 2,192 professions were reported by 46 churches and missions.

"If the present trend continues, this will be the best year Cuban Baptists have ever had," said Nemesio Garcia, pastor of the McCall Baptist Church in Havana and secretary of the mission board of the Cuban Baptist Convention.

One seminary student, who had preached during the crusade, warned, "If we fail to evangelize Cuba now, it is our fault and not anyone else's."

Crusades in the other three western provinces where Southern Baptists work were scheduled to follow the Havana effort.

Corder, who speaks Spanish, and Rutledge met with all eight of the denomination's missionaries, officers of the Cuban convention, and various other Baptist leaders.

They reported no interference in public meetings, that visitation in the homes was well received, and that hundreds are attending Baptist churches for the first time.

"There are many evidences of a wide-spread spiritual hunger," Corder observed, "and although the newspapers were filled with anti-U.S. statements, we met with no discourteousness."

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"We were told that on weekends the militia does its training, and arms are much in evidence, but on the Monday and Tuesday we were there we saw no more soldiers, policemen, or militia than we would see in U. S. cities," he added.

Commenting on reports that the denomination's schools may be in jeopardy because of the government's emphasis on public schools, both Corder and Rutledge said there had been no intimidation or interference by the government in the Havana Seminary, and that the elementary schools were having only to conform to the public educational standards.

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Washington Baptists
Support New President

(11-27-60)

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Baptists in the Nation's capital in a resolution, which did not mention by name President-elect John F. Kennedy, said "We pledge our prayerful support to the new administration to the end that it may lead our Nation to new high levels of spiritual dedication, personal freedom, political integrity, and international goodwill."

Other actions of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention approved a budget of \$304,666, authorized a study looking toward the establishment here of a Baptist university, and asked each church to set up a Christian life committee for social action in the communities.

The convention met with the First Baptist Church of Bethesda, Md., of which John Gates is pastor.

The new president of the District of Columbia Convention is Frank K. Brasington, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md., a suburb of Washington. Other officers are Charles Vinton Koons, a Washington attorney, vice-president; Lee M. Clarke, treasurer, and Clinton Hemmings, recording secretary. M. Chandler Stith is the executive secretary.

The 1961 budget represents a 17.1 per cent increase over 1960. After deduction of \$78,530 for general promotion, the District of Columbia Convention divides the distributable portion on the basis of 65 per cent for the program in the District of Columbia area and 35 per cent for national and world missions. The 35 per cent is divided 50/50 between the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The committee of 10 authorized by the convention to study the possibility of a Baptist university in the National capital area will work with similar committees appointed by the Baptist Convention of Maryland and the Mount Vernon Baptist Association of northern Virginia. These committees will study the needs for such a university and may try to enlist the Baptists of America to undertake its development.

The Christian life committee suggested that "each church form a Christian life committee to deal with local issues, such as the granting of alcoholic beverage licenses to business establishments, the circulation of obscene literature, and other problems which may come before any given community."

The committee suggested further studies of "proposed legislation concerning alcohol, federal aid to parochial schools, obscene literature, home rule for the District of Columbia, and problems related to reconciliation of the races."

The next meeting of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention will be at the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington on Nov. 20-21, 1961.

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Sunday School Board
Holds To Grade Plan

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board reported here it does not have any plans now for changing the age-grading set up.

It told the Inter-Agency Council of the Southern Baptist Convention that it has been studying this question. Results of the study "so far do not give clear guidance to justify initiating now a new plan or an adjusted plan of grading."

The Sunday school is the largest educational group within Southern Baptist churches. It follows age lines from cradle roll through adults. The Sunday School Board promotes Sunday school work and publishes lesson material used by Sunday school classes.

The S B C Brotherhood Commission, reporting on its new grading plans for Royal Ambassadors, reminded the council of the enlarged Royal Ambassador program which will go into effect in thousands of chapters next Oct. 1.

The new grading plan, which has drawn commendation from the council, calls for three groups of boys between 9 and 17--crusaders (9-11); pioneers (12-14), and ambassadors (15-17).

George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, said the new plan should make Royal Ambassadors, the week-day missionary education program for boys, more effective.

The Sunday School Board stated that 86 per cent of Southern Baptists' Sunday school enrolments are below 400 persons. "The majority of churches are small; closer grading is not feasible for them," James L. Sullivan, Nashville, executive secretary of the agency, announced.

Changes in Sunday school age-grading would require adjustments in building arrangements by churches. It would call for more volunteer workers to man new Sunday school units if there were "closer grading," that is, fewer years within a grading span, the board said.

Other effects of closer grading would be expensive changes in literature prepared for study, and a slow-down in educational programs caused during the adjustments, the report added.

"A Bible-teaching program, which seeks to reach the multitudes of unreached persons, calls for a plan of organization and grading that lends itself to enlargement with minimum difficulties for execution in the churches," according to the report.

The Sunday School Board said its grading study, under way since 1956, will continue. It will concentrate on evaluating education and on resolving problems and pointing out the values in age-grading.

The Inter-Agency Council set two meetings for 1961--Mar. 20-21 in Atlanta and Nov. 20-21 in Nashville. The Council, with representatives from various Convention agencies, seeks to bring about greater co-operation among them and to eliminate duplication of effort.

BAPTIST FEATURES

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Colleges Major Issue
Before State Groups

By Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press staff writer

Dancing . . . fraternities . . . a restaurant open on Sunday . . .

These local issues joined nationwide issues of religious liberty, segregation, and budget in being studied by Baptists at their annual state meetings this fall.

Meetings were held in 28 cities, representing as many separate, independent state Baptist bodies in co-operating affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention. Some of the bodies call themselves conventions, some general associations.

Most of them are limited to one state, but a few embrace several states although the name of the convention bears only the state in which work is the strongest.

This year's fall meetings came just before or -- for most -- just after the National election. As might be expected, one of the major outcomes from the meetings concerned church-state separation and religious liberty.

Four conventions which met prior to election day took action which could be interpreted directly or indirectly as opposing election of a Roman Catholic to the Presidency of the United States. These were Colorado, Alaska, Michigan, and New Mexico.

Two others--Illinois and Oregon-Washington--commended the work of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU) for its informing Americans about church-state infringements.

Since most of the conventions met after the election was settled, the expression was different. At least nine conventions gave their prayerful support to President-elect John F. Kennedy, and in doing so several reminded him of his campaign promises to honor separation of church and state.

Resolutions of this nature, worded differently but with generally the same intent, passed in Kansas, California, Georgia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, and the District of Columbia. Some used Kennedy's name, some did not.

While Tennessee took no action, its president--Gaye L. McGlothlen of Nashville--attributed the "religious issue" to Roman Catholic ~~secularism~~ *clericalism*. He added that church-state issues would have remained no matter who became President.

Alabama and Arizona conventions were offered similar resolutions, but did not act on them. A somewhat differently-worded resolution on the same theme passed Oklahoma Baptists.

Next to church-state, the topic of greatest interest appeared to be education--particularly higher education--sponsored by Baptists. Plans for seven new Baptist institutions were outlined.

In Alabama, it is a new college in Mobile. Tennessee encouraged Baptists in Memphis in their desire for a Baptist junior college. Missouri Baptists accepted responsibility for planning a college in St. Louis. South Carolina favored a school in Charleston. Baptists in Maryland and in the District of Columbia are hopeful of a new Baptist college near the Nation's capital.

Florida Baptists conditionally accepted a site for a college near the Gulf coast city of Clearwater. Illinois Baptists approved establishment of a seminary in the northern part of the state between 1965 and 1969.

Studies to help provide adequate support for existing Baptist schools were discussed in Mississippi, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

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Tennessee voted to retain operation of a Baptist academy with high school curriculum, while in Virginia, Baptists debated advancing a junior college to senior status.

The dancing issue in Virginia was referred to a large committee, including representatives of Virginia Baptist colleges. Amid cries of a convention dominated by Furman students, South Carolina Baptists voted by a narrow margin that Furman University might keep its social fraternities. It was the latest in a running issue that has existed for decades.

Some conventions took almost opposite actions. Tennessee refused three times to act directly on admitting Negroes to its colleges and hospitals, none of which admits them as students or patients. It left the individual decision up to the trustees. North Carolina did the same with regard to its schools. But in Kentucky, Baptist hospitals were instructed to admit patients without regard to race.

Being consistent, Tennessee also left up to hospital trustees the touchy question of whether restaurants on hospital property may remain open on Sunday. The convention was asked to take direct action to close them.

In the way of building programs in the states for the immediate future, this is the picture. South Carolina, Kansas, Alabama, and Ohio Southern Baptists announced plans for completely new office buildings or extensive remodeling of present office space used by Baptist leaders.

Indiana voted to consider an office building for its convention staff. Virginia defined budget provisions for an office building. Louisiana Baptists dedicated their \$1,350,000 structure during their convention.

Arizona said a Baptist children's home in Phoenix will open right away. Illinois wants to establish a home for aged and a new chair of Bible at a public college during this decade.

Texas Baptists met their new convention executive secretary. Imminent retirements of executive secretaries were reported in California, Kentucky, and South Carolina--California at the close of 1960, the others in late 1961.

Maryland completed changing its name from a union association to convention. Kentucky association started the same proceedings, which can not be finished until the next session. Virginia association itself did not undertake a name change, but altered the title of its board to one believed to more clearly depict the board's duties.

The state groups adopted 1961 Cooperative Program budgets exceeding \$55 million. Of this, \$18,700,000 will be shared with the Southern Baptist Convention. (The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program budget for agency operations and capital needs--not counting advance goal--is \$18,513,500 for 1961.)

Hawaii continued its plans to become a self-governing convention. Work in the 50th state is being transferred to local hands by the S B C Foreign Mission Board.