

November 30, 1960

GLOBE-TROTTING With Ginny.....

Believers Proved Their  
Salt In Old Salzburg

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

SALZBURG, Austria--(BP)--Surrounded by vast forests and towering mountains, the first settlement of this old "Salt City" was Celtic. Later the Romans built fortifications upon the dominating hill and established a network of Roman roads.

In this town, best known for its native son, Mozart the composer, the catacombs interested me most. They are believed to have been fashioned by Christians in the third or fourth centuries.

Most of the Christians were probably Roman soldiers stationed in the fort on top of the hill. In order to worship, they dug their way into the rock cliffs of Monchs Berg and built an underground chapel.

Around 400 A. D., this province, then called Novicum, was invaded by barbarians. An inscription in the catacombs reports that 51 Christians were murdered "because of their confession of faith" and thrown from the top of the cliff "into the depth." Then the community was destroyed by fire and sword but rebuilt many years later.

For over 1000 years the catacombs lay unknown until a landslide in 1669 exposed the secret diggings. The Austrians built stairs leading up to the catacombs for tourists, though the original steps led down from the fort above.

In comparison to these early Christians I hang my head in shame when I think of complaints of "all those church meetings"! Those early salt-of-the-earth Christians had to dig through solid rock in order to provide the privilege of worship which many Christians today neglect.

November 30, 1960

Baptist Press

Detroit To Receive  
Big City Funds

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Detroit area, with nearly four million residents and only 59 Southern Baptist churches, will receive \$100,000 from the denomination's Home Mission Board for church sites.

The funds will be used to purchase mission and church sites in strategic sections of the metropolitan area, and the sites will be held until churches can be established and repay the loan without interest for two and one-half years.

The action was approved in Atlanta at the annual meeting of the mission board as a part of the adoption of a \$4 $\frac{1}{4}$  million budget.

Detroit thus became the fifth major city to be included in Southern Baptists' "Big Cities" ministry, following such metropolitan giants as Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle. In the past four years these cities received more than a half million dollars in such loans.

The City Missions Department, of which Fred Moseley of Atlanta is secretary, administers the program. He indicated that his department will concentrate on some city year by year.

"Efforts are being made to select the very best sites and to spend these funds in the way that will enlarge and promote our work in Detroit," Moseley said.

Six churches organized the first association of Southern Baptists in Detroit in 1951, and a convention for the state followed in 1957 with 55 churches. Now there are four associations in Detroit. The one hundredth church in the state will be organized in December.

Jay Brown, city superintendent of missions for the Detroit area, indicated that surveys have been made revealing 29 sections needing churches within the next two years. These funds will help start 10 during 1961.

Brown also said population projection for the area indicates there will be more than five million residents by 1970.

"This 'Big Cities' program will give us the extra push needed to send us on our way to a strong Baptist witness in Detroit," said Fred Hubbs, executive secretary of the Michigan Baptist Convention.

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### Stealey Reports 'Why' Enrollments Dropped

WASHINGTON--(BP)--An analysis of why Southern Baptists' six seminaries reported a decrease in enrollment from 5,000 in 1959 to 4,809 in 1960 has been given by the president of one of the schools.

The decrease was the first break in increasing enrollments. It also struck the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville, which dropped from 56 to 41.

Sydnor L. Stealey, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, N. C., speaking to the annual session of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, credited the drop to these factors:

- 1) A decrease in ordination of ministers. There were 1996 ordained in 1951, but only 840 in 1959.
- 2) Fewer ministerial students in colleges, despite an increase in college enrollments.
- 3) Expiration of the G. I. Bill and a slight National depression.
- 4) The National school system stimulated toward science and business.
- 5) Failure of homes and churches, since most vocational decisions are made before college.
- 6) Secularism of society with young people seeking material rewards.

Stealey called for Southern Baptists to place smminary faculties on their prayer lists, as they do missionaries. "Our schools and faculties need prayers more than they need criticism," he said.

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### Church Tax-Exempt Position Supported

(11-30-60)

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--Churches and their institutions shouldnot pay taxes on businesses that are directly related to the function of the church, according to the report of the public affairs committee of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in annual session here.

But if the business is only indirectly related to the work of the church, and if it is operated by the church solely for income purposes and in competition with other businesses, it should be taxed, according to the report.

Stating that its opinions were "tentative formulations" designed to stimulate thinking on the part of Baptists, the committee said that all church property used exclusively for its religious function should be tax-exempt, in keeping with separation of church and state. Included in the tax-exempt category were businesses of an occasional nature, such as meals served at a county fair; service businesses, such as a hospital or day-school, and directly-related businesses such as a denominational publishing house.

Commenting on the practice of churches receiving income from business operations, the committee pointed out that church support should come from voluntary contributions and that churches engaged in businesses may be departing "from the function they were designed to perform."

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Contributions to churches may be tax deductions by the taxpayer without the person considering himself in a preferred status, the committee concluded.

The report of the public affairs committee was received by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention without debate.

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'Rio Spirit Should  
Circle The Globe'

(11-30-60)

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Members of the Baptist World Alliance administrative committee envisioned here a world-wide projection of the warm fellowship and evangelistic spirit manifest last summer at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

It was the first session of the committee since 13,000 registered delegates from 70 countries convened in the 10th Baptist World Congress at Rio last June. All 13 members of the committee were present, with other members of the executive committee attending.

Joao F. Soren, president of the Alliance and pastor of Rio's First Baptist Church, reported a continuing evangelistic harvest throughout Brazil as a result of the congress. An estimated 185,000 people, at least 80 per cent of whom were "non-Protestant," attended one Congress session in which evangelist Billy Graham preached.

"It will be the greatest year of growth in the history of Baptists in Brazil," Soren said. "Our churches have received unprecedented numbers on their professions of faith, and the tide is still running strong."

The Alliance committee also welcomed Josef Nordenhaug as general secretary of the Alliance. Formerly president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland, he came to Washington on Nov. 1, as successor to Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, who has retired.

World relief needs continue great, A. Klaupiks, co-ordinator of Alliance relief activities, reported. He said that six million people have been uprooted and moved from one area to another.

The Alliance has been effective in resettlement of many of them, and is currently engaged in taking European refugees, who fled across Asia, to new homes in Australia. Drugs, food, and clothing are being shipped to people in several areas of acute need.

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Religious Issue Didn't  
Affect Brazil--Soren

(11-30-60)

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Brazil did not feel the impact of the religious issue in the recent Presidential campaign in the United States, according to Joao F. Soren, president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Soren, a native Brazilian and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro for the past 26 years, was in Washington to attend the meeting of the administrative committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

At a press conference in answer to a question on the effect in Brazil of a Catholic President in the United States, Soren said that the religious issue was not important in his country and that the democratic process in North America is very impressive to South Americans.

Pointing out that although Brazil is nominally 92 per cent Roman Catholic, Soren said that there have been two non-Catholic presidents there. He emphasized that religious liberty and separation of church and state is practiced in Brazil exactly the same as in the United States.

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Asked about the possibility of the rise of communism in Brazil, Soren said that Brazilians have a great love for freedom and democracy. Among the middle classes there is a great aversion to Marxism. He said that the communists have stepped up their propaganda in Brazil and that communism has an appeal to the underprivileged classes there the same as anywhere else.

Soren reported that there has been very little effect in Brazil by the propaganda efforts of Castro of Cuba. At first, he said, some Brazilians were impressed by Castro, but subsequent events have changed their minds.

Commenting on the effort of the Catholic bishops of Puerto Rico to intervene in the recent political campaign by telling the church members how to vote, Soren said the reaction of the people of Puerto Rico was the same as in other South American countries. The people do not want the church to interfere in politics, he said, and they make up their own minds how to vote.

The Baptist World Alliance president was enthusiastic about the effects of the Baptist World Congress in Rio last summer. "Our churches have been greatly stimulated, and this will be a record year in Brazil in new church members."

Asked to explain the rapid growth of Baptists in Brazil, Soren said that there is a strong emphasis on evangelism. Church members have a strong sense of responsibility for personal witnessing, and a spiritual vacuum in the nation gives Baptists an unusual opportunity.