

June 16, 1961

CUTLINES

NEW BILLBOARD--This new billboard went up on a highway bypass near Dothan, Ala., where motorists entering from Florida and Georgia will see it. It's the first of eight such signs put up by Alabama Baptist State Convention near state lines. Others will go up near the Mississippi and Tennessee borders. (BP) Photo

June 16, 1961

Charter St. Petersburg
American-Tied Church

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (BP)--Seven home states are represented in the membership of the newly-chartered American Baptist Convention church in this Florida resort.

The church, which was yet to be named, planned to conduct a religious census in the northwest section of the city. William B. Hill, New York, from the staff of the American Baptist Home Missions Societies, has been ministering to the church.

Oldest charter member of the church is David Alexander, 90, retired pastor from New York state. The youngest charter member is a 16-year-old high school student.

The church is the first American Baptist Convention-affiliate church to be organized in Florida. It is one of the first under the new American Convention plan to minister to people in the South desiring American Convention ties.

Many of St. Petersburg's residents have formerly lived in Northern and Eastern states in the nation.

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Congressional Record
Prints Pilot's Article

(6-16-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Rep. Bruce Alger, (R., Tex.) read in the Baptist Standard an article by Baptist Press entitled, "Non-Drinking Passenger Forgotten Man Aloft."

He liked the article, written especially for Baptist Press by L. Cullom Claxton of Nashville, a 17-year veteran pilot with American Airlines. Claxton, a deacon in First Baptist Church, Nashville, told about the annoyances and safety problems posed by serving liquor in flight.

Rep. Alger inserted the article in the Congressional Record with these comments:

"Mr. Speaker, as a former pilot who is familiar with the tremendous responsibility assumed by the personnel of our busy commercial airlines, I think it is important to give some thought to the attitude of airline pilots toward serving liquor on commercial flights. The following article written for the Baptist Standard by L. Cullom Claxton, a pilot for American Airlines, is, in my opinion, important reading."

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Christmas, 1961 Goal
Of \$9,390,000 Fixed

(6-16-61)

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, adopted a goal of \$9,390,000 for the Christmas, 1961 Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions.

This is 14 per cent higher than the 1960 goal. Actual receipts from the 1960 offering came to \$8,238,471, up over a half-million dollars from the 1959 receipts.

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New Entrance Test
For Seminary Ready

NASHVILLE (BP)--A new test will greet first-year students at Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, a report to the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools disclosed.

It will examine the incoming student's knowledge of Old and New Testament. William H. Morton of Kansas City, who reported it to the commission, said while seminaries will voluntarily administer the test, he does not know of any seminary who has declined to give it.

The test has been devised by the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. The testing program, the association believes, will draw Baptist colleges and seminaries closer together in their course work in biblical studies.

Both college and seminary professors at Baptist schools worked on the 87-question test. The association, according to Morton, may later develop entrance tests in religious education and other fields.

Morton, professor of biblical archaeology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, explained some of the values of the test. Some college presidents among his hearers raised the question, however, if such a test would not encourage ministerial students to major in religion in college.

Educators disagree at times on whether a theological student planning to continue his education at a seminary should major in Bible in college.

Morton said one college claimed its religion majors felt they had a better background in the humanities (general knowledge) than if they had majored, say, in English.

Among the values Morton said the test would provide are:

1. Advanced students could be permitted to bypass introductory biblical courses at the seminary, and use the same required course time to take advanced courses in biblical fields. The test would indicate their depth of knowledge and each seminary would decide for itself what students are advanced enough to benefit.
2. If results of the test showed particular shortcomings in biblical studies, the seminaries could provide required courses for students to overcome this.
3. Colleges would be given test scores of their graduates. They could compare this against the average score for all seminaries (but not against other colleges specifically). If a college fell below the average score, it could consider stepping up the caliber of its biblical courses.
4. Such a test would help both college and seminary provide courses that would help student ministers find the relationship between classroom theory and pastoral practice. Too many students, Morton declared, leave the seminary for the active ministry still unable to match their academic skills against actual requirements of pastors serving churches.
5. By giving students a similar test at the end of their seminary study, the seminaries could tell how much their courses had helped to develop the student's knowledge.

Morton insisted such a test is devised to find out "biblical insights and understanding rather than mere factual knowledge detached from its meaning."

June 16, 1961

3

Baptist Press

Wake Forest College's
First Negro Enrols

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--A 21-year-old Negro student is among the 733 men and women attending the first six-week summer session at Wake Forest College here.

Kernard C. Rockette of Winston-Salem is the first member of his race accepted by the Baptist college since trustees recently changed the school's traditional policy. He is taking courses in chemistry and analytical geometry. He plans to attend the second six-week summer session to take an English course.

Under the new policy, non-whites are permitted to attend summer school at Wake Forest College only if they plan to transfer their credits to another college for a degree.

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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE
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June 16, 1961

Baptist 4-Way Merger Pleas Said 'Surprise'

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--The American Baptist Convention was urged here by one of its retiring officials to begin negotiations to merge with the Disciples of Christ, the National Baptist Convention (Negro) and the Brethren Denomination.

M. Forest Ashbrook, New York, concluding his service as executive director of the American Baptists' Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, called for establishment of a joint commission to explore the possibilities of bringing the four groups together.

Other convention officials expressed some surprise this view was voiced. Merger talks with the Disciples of Christ were conducted for several years but had been abandoned.

Speaking at a luncheon given in his honor prior to opening of the annual session of the convention, Ashbrook told several hundred ministers there is also a need for emphasizing "American Baptist distinctives."

He likewise called for added importance to be given to theological education.

Ashbrook further proposed that the American Baptist Convention consider a representative form of government under which each of the denomination's 6,200 churches would have a direct voice in every annual meeting. He suggested smaller attendance at conventions, perhaps held on alternate years, would save thousands of dollars.

In welcoming the delegates to Portland for the 54th annual meeting of the convention, J. Lester Harnish, pastor of First Baptist Church of the host city and co-chairman of local arrangements committee, endorsed this earlier proposal for smaller, less frequent and more economical conventions.

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'Applied Gospel' Unity Among Nation's Baptists

(6-16-61)

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--The President of the Southern Baptist Convention told American (Northern) Baptists in their annual convention here the unity to be sought among the various Baptist groups in this country is a unity of purpose in preaching the Gospel.

Herschel H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City pastor, recently chosen to head Southern Baptists, said, "The unity we seek among Baptists of America must be a unity in the Gospel as it is applied to the problems of our time."

He told the assembled delegates, "The need for preaching the Gospel in this land and around the world is bigger than both of us."

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Hobbs was presented by American Convention President C. Stanton Gallup, a layman from Plainfield, Conn., who was fraternal messenger to the May meeting of the Southern Convention in St. Louis.

Pointing to the many ties between the two conventions, Hobbs said, "I feel very much at home here." The two conventions maintain separate organizations and programs, but enter into cooperative relations in matters of mutual interest.

The Baptist Jubilee Advance emphases for 1959 through 1964, celebrating 150 years of nationally-organized Baptist life in America, are supported by both these conventions and by five other Baptist bodies.

Officials of both conventions expressed the view that there is practically no interest in merging the American and Southern Baptist Conventions.

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Retired Preacher, 90,
Named Father Of Year

(6-16-61)

DALLAS (BP)--A 90-year-old retired Baptist preacher from Grand Saline, Tex., who has led more than 2,500 persons to make "decisions for Christ" has been named 1961 Texas Baptist Father of the Year.

W. W. Parker, who has pastored 18 Texas and Louisiana Baptist churches during 50 years in the ministry, was named to receive the award here by a special joint committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist Standard, state Baptist newspaper.

The committee cited Parker for "his contribution to Christianity through his family, church and community."

Special Father's Day services at the Main Street Baptist Church in Grand Saline where Parker is a member honored the Father of the Year. He received an engraved plaque during the services.

The father of six, Parker says that his most cherished memory is over-hearing one of his sons tell a friend, "I've got the greatest dad in the world."

Four of his six children live in Wills Point, Tex., 50 miles east of Dallas---Henry Parker, Mrs. Ora Lee Misliviets, Mrs. Marie West, and Tommy Parker. Two others are from Fort Worth, Mrs. Ettie May Edwards and Cleborn Parker.

Parker said that all of his children are active workers in their Baptist churches, and that all of his 17 grandchildren but one who is too young are Christians. He also has 30 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Parker who was a state Baptist missionary in Louisiana in 1919, is not really retired from the ministry, said his pastor, Richard T. Moody of Grand Saline.

Parker still preaches at every opportunity, regularly attends nearly every service held by his church, and is very active in personal soul-winning work, said Pastor Moody.

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Folks and facts.....

(6-16-61)

.....Glenn R. Capp, chairman of the speech and radio department and director of forensics at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., is the author of a new 400-page book, "How To Communicate Orally," just published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., of Englewood Cliffs, N.J. The book is designed primarily as a text book for college and university classes in speech training. (BP)

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Get Used To It, Men:
Women Are Taking Over

By W. C. Fields

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Men, you might as well get used to it. Women are taking over many places of church leadership. And this trend will continue!

Or so the National Council of American Baptist Women was told here. The speaker was a woman who's living proof of her claim.

Mrs. Maurice B. Hodge of Portland, a former president of the American Baptist Convention, told the group, "The old question as to whether women are as smart as men, as businesslike, as stable, no longer agitates churchwomen, we know. And with Paul we believe, "there is neither male nor female."

Citing educational, professional, governmental and business achievement of women, Mrs. Hodges challenged American Baptist women to arise to the maturity that Christian leadership demands.

"Grow up. Accept your place in the world with the consequent responsibilities, controversy and criticism," she said.

"Along the way in their new role of sex equality, women must chart new courses and take full blame for mistakes and blunders. They must face the criticism of controversy and be willing to bear unpopularity in a difficult cause," she stated. "They must give up self-consciousness...and, without losing their essential femininity, accept their responsibilities."

Mrs. Hodges, a frequent speaker among Southern Baptist Convention groups, warned against "new approaches and clever tricks for doing old things." She said, "We must learn to communicate with the people of the new age--not only speak to them, but listen to them."

Mrs. Stanley I. Stuber of Kansas City, Mo., was re-elected president of the National Council of American Baptist Women.

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C O R R E C T I O N S

EDITORS: Please kill paragraph 8, page 2 of the Dallas Baptist Press story mailed Juen 9 headlined: "Texas Board Interprets Church State Separation." The graph beginning, "Baptists were largely responsible for amending the Hill-Burton Act to stop federal grants..." is incorrect. The amendment did not stop grants to hospitals but added loans for those who did not want grants. Story can easily stand without graph. Here is additional accurate information if you want to include some background on this.

Baptists were responsible for amending the Hill-Burton Act in 1958 in order to make the funds available in the form of "loans" as well as "grants." The so-called "Baptist Amendment" did not change the operation of the Hill-Burton Act except to make the funds available as long-term, low interest loans for those who would not accept grants.

Since the 1958 Hill-Burton amendment, only four hospital loans have been made by the government. All four have been to Baptist hospitals. The hospitals of other groups continue to receive the funds as grants.

June 16, 1961

4

Baptist Press

CORRECTION: Dallas Baptist Press mailed June 9, page 3, story headlined "Texas Board Approves Budget, New Employees."

Last graph (No. 7), beginning "Other employees....", line 3 should read:

".....and Lee Garner, candidate for the doctor of religious education degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth....."

Kill last sentence of the story. Garner did not receive a doctorate from Southwestern.

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Folks and facts.....

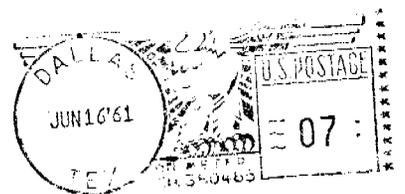
(6-16-61)

.....Mrs. R. E. Mahood, assistant to the director of public relations at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex., has won three awards sponsored by the Texas Women's Press Association. She is winner of the first place award for a magazine of special interest edited by a woman, first place for a promotional brochure, and second place for an editorial. Mrs. Mahood, secretary-treasurer for the West Texas Press Association, is editor of the "West Texas Publisher." Her award winning brochure was a series on the Hardin-Simmons school of music. (BP)

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BAPTIST PRESS

103 BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS



VIA AIR MAIL

Theo Sommerkamp X
Executive Committee
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee

A CO-OPERATIVE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE