

August 2, 1961

Second Catholic
Priest Converted

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (BP)--Former Roman Catholic Priest Salvador Garcia Pardo was baptized into the fellowship of Bethany Baptist Church. (Spanish) here.

The pastor of Bethany Church is Stephen Corradi.

New convert Pardo came to the United States from Colombia. There he had been chaplain of the Santa Clara Hospital and professor of the college La Esperanza in the city of Cartagena.

A native of Spain, he received his education for the priesthood in Valencia and Orihuela in that country. He was ordained to the priesthood in March, 1953.

A friar of the Capucin Order, Salvador Garcia Pardo has served as a professor most of the time since his ordination. While in Colombia, he also served as a missionary among three tribes of Indians on the Venezuelan frontier.

Pardo, who speaks little English, wants to enter a Baptist school.

It was the second conversion of a Roman Catholic priest to Baptist beliefs reported this summer. Pastor David C. Hall of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church baptized former priest John Reagan into fellowship of that church.

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Another Court Holds
Property Tax-Exempt

(8-2-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Tennessee Court of Appeals has held the property of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention here tax-exempt.

It ruled on an appeal from Chancery Court, which also said the board's tax-exempt status was valid. The City of Nashville had filed the appeal, claiming employee parking lots and a cafeteria and snack bar catering to employees were taxable.

The city for two years has been trying to enforce a tax assessment against the Sunday School Board, one of the city's major businesses. The city at first attempted to tax all properties--assessed at \$4.8 million--of the board, covering several square blocks near the heart of the Nashville business district.

When the Sunday School Board contested the assessment, the city yielded its case on all but the parking lots and the eating facilities for employees, assessing them at \$725,000. The Sunday School Board contends they are also exempt as an integral part of the church-related institution.

Informed of the decision while attending the semiannual meeting of the board at Ridgecrest, N. C., Baptist Assembly, Executive Secretary James L. Sullivan of Nashville said:

"It was the decision we were expecting because it was the only right decision."

While the City Tax Equalization Board in Nashville sustained the city's right to tax the board, the tax-exempt nature of the properties has now been affirmed by the State Tax Equalization Board, Chancery Court of Davidson County (Nashville) and the Court of Appeals.

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Editor's Note: The following is the second and final story by H. H. Hobbs, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who took part in a Baptist tour of the Holy Land. Hobbs has now returned to Oklahoma City.

Israel, Arabs Each
Claim Father Abraham

by H. H. Hobbs
from Holy Land tour

One never ceases to be amazed at the transformation of a land which has been wrought by the Israeli people.

Trees and water make the difference between barren hills and sand dunes and vineyards and productive fields. The Israeli government is making a successful attempt to bring industry of varying kinds into this flowering land.

But our primary interest naturally lies in the spiritual witness being borne in the land where our Lord lived among men. In Jerusalem, Israel we were privileged to visit with Frank A. Hooper III, son of Federal Judge Frank A Hooper Jr., of Atlanta.

Mrs. Hooper was at Petah Tiqva assisting in a summer camp. Later in the day, we visited this "center" of our mission work in Israel. Located in a fertile area near Tel Aviv, this was once the orphans' home located at Nazareth.

Since the need for such a home has been reduced, this school is gradually being turned into a boarding school for Christian children. At present, they have 19 orphans and 16 boarding students.

At Tiberias, on the Sea of Gallilee, we had a delightful visit with missionaries Bob and Margaret Lindsey. He is at present making a translation of the New Testament from Greek into modern Hebrew. This is a "first," and Southern Baptists may be justly proud our missionary was chosen to do this monumental work.

When finished, it will be published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It is a major step in the program of evangelism in Israel.

A state of war still exists between Israel and the Arab world, with only an armistice keeping down active hostilities. The claim is made that Palestine belongs to the "seed" of Abraham. Each claims to be that "seed."

But the "seed" is spiritual. The land and its people belong to Christ. Would that it might become a reality!

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Funds Left By Negro
To New Jersey Church

(8-2-61)

MADISON, N. J. (BP)--Part of a \$175,000 estate belonging to a Negro Baptist deacon here was left to the year-old Madison Baptist Church, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The first we knew about it was when a rather gruff voice asked over the telephone, 'What is the name of your church?'" said Howard Hovde, pastor of the Madison church.

"When told it was the Madison Baptist Church, we were informed the church had been included in the will of John J. Yancey, a deacon emeritus of the First Baptist Church of Madison," he added.

Since the First Baptist Church is affiliated with the National (Negro) Baptist Convention and Yancey was a Negro, Hovde thought a mistake had been made.

"But, in fact, both churches had been included as beneficiaries," he added. The Southern Baptist church is one of 22 beneficiaries of the will which will be settled in October.

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Actually, it was at Madison that the first prayer group of Southern Baptists met which started work in eastern New York. Manhattan became the center of the work, but 2-1/2 years ago the group from Madison again began to meet there to avoid the long trips into New York City.

The chapel became a church in May of last year. In September of this year they will begin their first building.

"The unusual gift from Mr. Yancey will assist our church toward the goal of \$100,000. We will ever be grateful to him for his kindness," Hovde said.

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Folks and Facts.....

(8-2-61)

.....Benjamin Irvin Cheney Jr., pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., has become general manager and associate publisher of the Weekly Star in Atlanta.
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