

October 5, 1961

The Issue: Solve Or
Become Part Of Problem

(September news roundup)

By Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press staff writer

"Are you helping to solve the problem or just becoming part of it?"

This gag question, posted in offices to draw humorous remarks, also has a serious undertone. No one knows its serious side better than 4100 Baptists who attended two separate meetings in September.

They sought ways in which Christians could help answer the world's confused problems but were warned of ways Christians have become part of the problems.

First, the 4000 who attended the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men in Memphis heard the issues clearly drawn by a battery of "name" speakers. A couple of weeks later, 100 professionals in church-related social work and counseling fields heard similar things at their meeting in Nashville.

The men were rebuked for being "too busy burning incense to the goddess 'Production.'"

"Religion today must be what a man does with his vocation," Louis H. Evans of Los Angeles, a nationally-known Presbyterian minister told them.

The dominant theme of the three-day men's conference was: The world's in a confused mess. Professional religionists alone can never establish the kingdom of God; it's up to Christian laymen to help straighten out problems and build the kingdom.

Second, the 100 were those attending the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference at Nashville.

Although most of the jargon of the meeting was 30,000 feet over the heads of the non-professional, the essence of it could be found in several seminars during the conference.

People with the everyday problems and confusions caught from the complex, disturbed times come to these chaplains, seminary professors, pastors and editors to get a new bearing on life.

These leaders have realized their need to show those they counsel how the Christian gospel applies to life.

The problems they have to counsel on--and try to supply Christian answers and guidance for--include juvenile delinquency, welfare aid, marriage adjustments, vocational choices, care for the aged.

Without lessening the demand for Christian living on the job, Professor Henlee H. Barnette of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, reminded a counseling seminar that:

"There is but one call in the scriptures--to be a child of God and to behave as such. It is at this point that vocation has meaning for work, leisure, worship, service and every other activity. The Christian...is to 'walk worthy of his vocation' (calling of God to salvation) in all his relationships."

A third meeting--the semi-annual one of the SBC Executive Committee--produced news of a new octagon-shaped office building in Nashville. To be built during 1962 at a cost of \$700,000, the three-story octagon will house the Executive Committee and four Convention agencies.

A companion meeting, the Southern Baptist Communications Conference, received word of a pastor--newspaperman survey which showed each group to be cautious of the other. It told in statistics the way each views the other, and suggested means to smooth out relationships between them.

In Washington, the federal aid to education issue--with its church-state problems--appeared to have been left behind by a departing Congress as perhaps their thorniest issue for the 1962 session. They skirted head-on action, passing only a bill to extend certain aid already provided.

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Gifts Near \$13 Million
At Nine-Month Point

(10-5-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Cooperative Program income for Southern Baptist Convention agencies neared the \$13 million mark at the end of September. Three months were left to meet minimum budget needs of \$18,513,000.

September receipts, according to Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville, amounted to \$1,527,808. They brought the year-to-date figure to \$12,948,618--up .81 per cent over the same months of 1960.

At the end of August, receipts slightly trailed the 1960 sum through eight months. The September, 1961, income was \$215,000 over August of the same year and \$107,000 above the September, 1960, receipts.

Designated income for September of the current year reached \$138,614 bringing the nine month total to \$11,864,636 compared with \$11,048,316 at the same point the previous year. This is 7.39 per cent greater.

Eight states had forwarded in less to SBC activities through the Cooperative Program this year than they did a year ago. These included Texas, Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Illinois, Michigan and Kansas.

Their combined deficits were \$211,500.

Cooperative Program gifts are undesignated gifts. They are forwarded from church unified budgets to the various state Baptist offices where 60 to 80 per cent is kept for state missions.

The remainder comes to the SBC treasury at Nashville for disbursement to all of the agencies according to a scale adopted by the Convention.

Designated gifts for SBC agencies go only to the agencies named.

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Folks and Facts.....

(10-5-61)

.....Southern Baptists in the Cleveland, Ohio, area have formed a new association of churches. Dividing the old Cuyahoga Baptist Association, the western section took the new name of North Central Baptist Association. Churches in the eastern area (Cleveland, Ashtabula, Youngstown) will retain the Cuyahoga associational name. The western area included the cities of Lorain, Elyria and Norwalk. (BP)

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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October 5, 1961

Editor: This is the seventh in a series on SBC agencies.

Faculty-Student Ties
Noted At Midwestern

(picture accompanies)

By Donald J. Sorensen
Baptist Press Correspondent

At the first commencement last spring at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a graduate--camera and twin babies in hands--approached President Millard J. Berquist.

"Would you mind posing with my two for a picture?" he asked. Berquist, gowned in academic regalia for the occasion, clutched a tot on each arm and obliged.

The friendly informality between students and the faculty is credited with much of the success of the Southern Baptist Convention's sixth and newest theological seminary, located at Kansas City, Mo.

"The rapport between the faculty and students is wonderful," Berquist said. An exponent of it, Berquist calls students by their first names as he passes them on campus. He also stops frequently to chat with them.

The 1957 Convention approved this new seminary. Settled on 215 acres of rolling grassland at 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, about 10 minutes from the downtown area, the seminary is just a short distance from a suburban shopping center.

Here are located five air-conditioned buildings of a conservative, yet contemporary design. The administration building is topped by an ultramodern spire that prompted one architect to wryly remark "it looked about 1980."

Other buildings now erected include a library, classrooms, auditorium and a student center. A dormitory for single men and possibly other living accommodations are planned for the near future.

From this budding campus (its tulip gardens are a floral attraction) last May 12 strode the seminary's first graduates, 56 students to fulfill their duties as pastors, missionaries, and other church servants. Most of the class went directly to pastorates, a few to missionary duties with the SBC Home Mission Board and some to further schooling elsewhere.

The class set a Christian example to future groups with its attitude toward the only Negro member of the class. When his name was called at commencement, he walked up to accept his diploma, the graduating class standing in a body in tribute to his achievement and his popularity as a student.

This class represented a milestone for the seminary which three years earlier began its first session in temporary facilities at the downtown Kansas City location of the Calvary Baptist Church. That first class consisted of 136 students from 21 states and Mexico. The administration and faculty included the president, librarian, business manager and four professors.

For the second year, 1959-60, enrollment had grown to 275 and the number of professors to 10. The third year, there were 14 professors and 342 students from 29 states and three foreign countries. A year's curriculum was added at a time until the basic curriculum has now been completed.

The Convention instructed the seminary to "limit its scope of work to a school of theology." This is embodied in the theme of the seminary, "In the Heart of America for the Hearts of the World." This theme not only points out its location but also its principal mission in turning out men who will serve God in winning men for Christ.

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One student summed up his impressions of the school by saying, "Midwestern has achieved a proper balance between evangelistic zeal and scholastic endeavor. Neither is sacrificed to the other. Because of her short history, Midwestern has not touched a vast number of lives, but those hundreds she has touched have been richly blessed."

The wife of another student became critically ill while he was in a preaching mission far from Kansas City. "Members of the faculty were quick to minister to our needs in an exceptional Christian manner, manifesting an always-to-be-remembered love to two young people far away from home," he later wrote.

That the words, "seminary family," are used frequently is brought out by a student who recalls that the president saying he feels he is "pastor" of the "Midwestern Baptist Church." This feeling extends to all of the faculty as evidenced by another who says, "In the men who are my teachers I find all the necessary elements of a good minister of Jesus Christ."

The seminary grants only a bachelor of divinity degree. Admission requirements include a bachelor of arts degree, or its equivalent, from a recognized senior college or university. The seminary's credits are accepted by other seminaries in the convention.

First funds for the seminary's operation came from three sources: \$50,000 each from the Baptist Sunday School Board and the SBC Executive Committee reserve and \$10,000 from the Convention operating budget. The seminary's first year of operation came from these funds.

The seminary began sharing in the regular appropriation of Cooperative Program money to Convention agencies. From 1959 through 1961, it was scheduled to receive \$1.6 million for capital needs alone. It relied on the capital funds to buy its new campus and build.

Current Cooperative Program annual allocations run almost \$300,000.

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Cutlines to photo

(10-5-61)

Students study in Midwestern's library.

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Baylor Gets Largest
Gift--Dallas City Block

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Nearly an entire city block in downtown Dallas has been given to Baylor University here in what will eventually become the largest gift in the Baptist school's 116-year history.

A trust established in honor of Dallas insurance executive Carr P. Collins will handle the transaction and give Baylor ownership of the multi-million dollar development.

Sanger-Harris department store announced plans for a sprawling building and parking garage on the property.

The Carr P. Collins Trust will lease the building to Sanger-Harris and proceeds of the lease will go to Baylor University.

Baylor President Abner McCall said it is impossible to pinpoint the precise amount involved in the transaction, but he told the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptist newspaper published in Dallas, that the trust would bring Baylor the largest long-term income in the school's history.

Sanger-Harris has signed a lease agreement for a 25-year period with options running through 99 years. Ultimately, both property and the building will be owned by Baylor University.

Attorneys who handled the legal work for the transaction said that taxes would be paid by Baylor in keeping with state and federal requirements.

Property for the new store, the first completely new department store to be built in downtown Dallas in more than 30 years, is located across the street from the site on which the First National Bank of Dallas plans to build a new multi-million dollar skyscraper.

Initial plans call for more than 600,000 square feet in the Sanger-Harris building, but the department store has not yet announced height nor estimated cost of the structure.

Collins, a former Baylor trustee, established the initial trust for Baylor just after World War II.

Collins said he first became interested in Baylor in the 1920's through the influence of Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, and Samuel P. Brooks, Baylor president at that time.

"Through these men," Collins said, "I saw the things that Baylor was doing and noticed the character and purpose of the student body. I became convinced that it provides the type of Christian leadership that the world needs.

Speakers For Texas
Convention Confirmed

AUSTIN (BP)--A complete roster of speakers, including a battery of the denomination's top preachers, has been confirmed for the annual Baptist General Convention of Texas slated here Nov. 7-9.

More than 5,000 persons from virtually every Baptist church in the state are expected to attend the three-day meeting here.

Principal speakers for the convention announced this week by the Convention's committee on order of business include W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas; Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, president of the 9 million-member Southern Baptist Convention; James H. Landes of Wichita Falls, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Howard Butt Jr., Baptist layman and grocery chain executive from Corpus Christi.

Each session of the vast convention will open with a special Bible exposition by Stephen Olford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of New York City.

Texas Governor Price Daniel, a member of the First Baptist Church of Austin, will welcome the Baptists to the convention city.

President Landes said the convention would feature this year more preaching than ever before, but added that the main purpose of the meeting will be to conduct the business of the 1½ million-member convention.

Other speakers on the program include Porter Routh of Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee; E. H. Westmoreland, pastor of the South Main Baptist Church in Houston; Millard Berquist, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Perry Webb of Little Rock, Ark., recently retired pastor of San Antonio's First Baptist Church; and W. H. "Dub" Jackson, Southern Baptist missionary to Japan.

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Texas Baptist Foundation
Names Shearin Associate

(10-5-61)

DALLAS (BP)--The Baptist Foundation of Texas has named George Shearin, director of the Texas Baptist stewardship division for the past two years, as the Foundation's associate executive secretary.

Shearin, 37, will assist Executive Secretary James C. Cantrell in the general administration of the Foundation and will give particular direction to the trust division.

His appointment climaxes a reorganization of the Foundation's administrative framework to provide more efficient management of the rapidly-growing agency.

Assets invested by the Baptist Foundation of Texas now total more than \$50 million. None of the funds, however, belong to the Foundation, said Cantrell.

The Foundation invests the endowments, trusts and designated gifts for more than 35 Baptist institutions and agencies including college and universities, seminaries, hospitals, and children's homes.

Shearin had worked closely with the Foundation as director of the Texas Baptist stewardship division, and as secretary for four years of the endowment department for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Shearin practiced law in Waco before coming to Dallas. He is a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Dallas.

As director of the Texas convention's stewardship division, Shearin had been coordinating the Texas Baptist Crusade for Christian Education effort to raise \$28 million for nine Texas Baptist schools.

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Responsibility for direction of the campaign will be considered by the convention's Education Commission and program coordinating committee at a future meeting in Dallas.

J. Woodrow Fuller, Texas Baptist state missions secretary, will give interim direction to the stewardship division, said Texas Baptist Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson.

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Mobile Library Serves
Small Rural Churches

(10-5-61)

HUNTSVILLE, Tex. (BP)--A mobile library to serve small rural churches has been launched by the First Baptist Church here.

The project is a result of the Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association's effort to promote church libraries. Twenty-three of the association's churches have a regular attendance of less than 50. None of these have church libraries.

The mobile library includes \$400 worth of books, ranging in subject from psychology and prayer to Baptist doctrine and family worship.

Portable shelving for the system cost \$40 to build and closes up when not in use, making a compact cabinet easily transported from one church to another.

Associational Missionary W. L. Hughes said each church using the library will keep records of the books used. The content will be changed regularly with other books from the First Church stock.

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Ramsey Named Texas
Evangelism Associate

(10-5-61)

DALLAS (BP)--A Georgia Baptist pastor has been named associate director of the division of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Brooks Ramsey, pastor of the 3,000-member First Baptist Church of Albany, Ga., will become associate director of the Texas evangelism division Nov. 1.

Ramsey succeeds C. B. Jackson who is retiring from the convention's evangelism staff after more than 15 years service. Jackson will be honored during the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Austin Nov. 7-9.

Ramsey, 39, served as director of the Billy Graham crusade in Houston in 1952.

A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Ramsey taught in the seminary's preaching department while doing graduate work. He has received a bachelor's degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and a master's degree from Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

He is the former pastor of Curtis Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., and was previously pastor of the First Baptist Church in Galena Park, Tex., and Ridglea Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

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Venezuela To Broadcast
Spanish Baptist Hour

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southern Baptist's weekly Spanish-language radio program, "La Hora Bautista" will be broadcast in Venezuela, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission announced here.

Southern Baptist Missionary E. B. Kilmer told the Radio and Television Commission that he had secured time on Radio Miranda, "which is heard all over Caracas and surrounding towns."

Leobardo Estrada, pastor of the First Mexican Baptist Church of Los Angeles, Calif., is the preacher on "La Hora Bautista," the Spanish equivalent of "The Baptist Hour" produced by the commission.

The addition of Venezuela to the list of stations carrying the program brings the total to 22 stations in 13 Central and South American countries now broadcasting "La Hora Bautista."

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Annuity Board Buys
North Carolina Plant

(10-5-61)

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Annuity Board purchased a plant at Cornelius, North Carolina, for \$1 million and in turn leased it for 20 years to Reeves Brothers, a manufacturing company.

Fred W. Noe, treasurer of the Annuity Board, said the purchase of this property is part of the regular investment program in which money coming from dues and premiums of the retirement plans are invested.

None of the money used by the Annuity Board for investment purposes comes from the Cooperative Program, Noe said.

Noe said under this "lease-back" type investment, the Annuity Board buys the physical property and leases it either to the people who formerly owned the property or to other interested parties.

He said this type investment is a common business transaction among the many "long-term" type funds, such as endowment funds, religious pension funds, foundations, union pension funds and industrial pension funds.

Noe said that property taxes are not affected by such transactions.

"All taxes levied on the property will be paid just as though it were owned by the industrial interests or any other person, corporate or real," he added.

Noe said the income gained from the property rental will be returned to the pension fund for payment of benefits to pastors, church and denominational employees who participate in the retirement plans administered by the Annuity Board.

The income received during the course of the lease will be sufficient to totally repay the cost of the property in addition to yielding an attractive rate of interest, Noe said.

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