

December 6, 1961

**Baptist Is Named  
Chaplain Of Year**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist chaplain has been named "chaplain of the year" for 1962 by the Reserve Officers Association with headquarters here.

Col. Samuel M. Bays of the U. S. Air Force will receive the coveted award at the association's annual mid-winter national council banquet March 2 in Washington.

Rear Admiral John E. Harlin, national president, said the selection of Chaplain Bays was made by its national awards board after exhaustive consideration of the records of a large number of outstanding chaplains serving in the armed services.

In picking Bays for the 1962 award, the reserve officers board said that "he has contributed greatly to the development of the spiritual and moral program of the Air Force chaplaincy."

The statement further said his counsel and cooperation in the area of civilian-military ecclesiastical affairs have constituted a valuable contribution to inter-faith relationships. His knowledgeable skill, staff leadership, mature judgment and keen analysis, combined with unselfish devotion to duty, have strengthened and enhanced the mission of the Air Force chaplaincy."

Bays is a native of Dublin, Tex., and received his high school education at the Lingleville (Tex.) High School. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College at Brownwood, Tex., and a former pastor at Balmorhea, Tex.

Bays is currently staff chaplain, 26th Air Division, Hancock Field, Syracuse, N. Y. He plans and coordinates the religious programs and activities for approximately 16,000 officers and airmen.

The holder of a number of awards and decorations, Bays was awarded the Air Force commendation medal in February, 1960. He was cited for his work as chairman of the Armed Forces Hymnal Committee which produced the official hymnal for all armed services. He has also been cited for his contribution to the religious education programs for the Air Force.

The Reserve Officers Association became a national association in 1922. Its sole objective is the "support of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security." Today, it has 55 departments and 1000 chapters in every state and at overseas military bases, with a total membership of 66,000.

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**Brooks Hays Becomes  
President's Assistant**

(12-6-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Brooks Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was sworn in here as special assistant to President John F. Kennedy in a brief ceremony in the cabinet room at the White House. Both the President and Vice President Lyndon Johnson were present.

President Kennedy expressed his pleasure in having Hays as one of his assistants. He recalled that they were old friends from the days when both were members of the House of Representatives. The President paid tribute to Hays' effective service in recent months as assistant secretary of state.

The President explained that Hays would assist in the field of foreign relations as well as in domestic matters. He said Hays would be especially useful in the field of trade which will receive considerable attention during the coming year.

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In response to the President's remarks, Hays said he understood he would be doing some speech-making in his new job, but the President would "rather I wouldn't do it this morning."

Hays quoted a proverb to the President and the large group of friends present. "Back of every achievement is a proud wife and a surprised mother-in-law," he said. "My mother-in-law is surprised. She expected me to be President." (His mother-in-law, Mrs. A. G. Prather, 95, was present for the occasion.)

Addressing the President, Hays concluded his remarks by saying, "The highest honor of my life is to work for you."

Following the ceremony, both the President and Hays mingled with the group and exchanged greetings.

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Folks and Facts.....

(12-6-61)

.....Baptist Memorial Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., has received a gift of \$25,000 from the Kresge Foundation of Detroit. The money will be used in completing four floors at the hospital. (BP)

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.....A gift of \$100,000 for the Ouachita College endowment fund was made by Birkett L. Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, Ouachita alumnus of 1910 and long-time benefactor of the Arkansas Baptist college. (BP)

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Banner Month Cheers  
SBC Budget Leaders

(12-6-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention leaders here were cheered by Cooperative Program receipts for the SBC having their best month for 1961 during November. Forwardings from state Baptist bodies amounted to \$1,637,900.

It brought the 11-month budget total to \$16,074,296. While the November news was good, the budget objective of \$18,513,500 still was distant. Few expected December receipts to reach \$2.5 million, since they have averaged \$1.5 million in the 11 months thus far.

Failure to meet the \$18.5 million goal means curtailments for agencies sharing in the capital needs section of the budget. (Operating budgets were assured in October when receipts passed \$14 million.)

Operating budgets get priority. If the capital funds fail to materialize in full, the agencies in this section of the budget will get only a proportion of their budget allotments.

What does it mean?

For the 30,000 Movement of the Southern Baptist Convention--the giant church extension drive--it can mean a slow-up. The SBC Home Mission Board counted on the full \$900,000 in capital funds for its church extension loan fund, vital to the success of the movement.

Some time ago, the Convention met not only its full operating and capital budgets but entered an over-and-above "advance" stage as well. The Home and Foreign Mission Boards shared the advances by themselves.

Lack of any advance stage coming in 1961 has forced the Home Board to cancel its 1962 "Operation Big Cities," used to extend Southern Baptist work in major Northern and Western metropolitan centers.

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Convention Cooperative Program receipts have increased year by year. The shortage has come at this point: Budgets have increased faster and in greater sums than receipts have.

The Cooperative Program income for 1961 to date, for instance, is running 3.23 per cent ahead of 1960.

Designated income, which is not shared by all agencies, but is sent only to the agencies specially mentioned, has risen 7.04 per cent over 1960 to date. It stands at a Nov. 30 total of \$12,167,040. Designations include the large Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions.

Reports here by Treasurer Porter Routh do not include total church collections, nor the shares of the Cooperative Program kept in the states for use there.

serving Southern Baptist state papers as a news service

# BAPTIST PRESS

December 6, 1961

Theo Sommerkamp, *assistant director*  
127 Ninth Avenue, North  
Nashville 3, Tennessee

Dear Journalists:

One of our friends recently asked for 200 copies of this article, in reprint form, which had appeared earlier in the magazine, Baptist Program. It was written to explain the Baptist Press news service to Southern Baptist pastors, denominational workers, missionary appointees and other leaders.

While we're proud of the Baptist Press news service, and want it to be an avenue of service and communication, we hadn't planned on doing any reprints till we got this friend's request for 200. Since it had to be reset in type, we wondered if anyone else might be interested.

We aren't sending you 200, so don't worry. Chances are you'll get more like 25. And we're sending it only to our Baptist Press regional editors, to public relations staff members of Baptist agencies and to Baptist colleges offering journalism. One of these categories caught you.

We feel Baptist Press is a cooperative service. We want it to be the "Associated Press" of Southern Baptist life, as dependable, accurate and fast as AP, and as dependent on its member editors (28 of them in state paper posts across the SBC) as the AP is. We also like to combine some of the good points of the UPI as well--the use of stringers to supplement the news supplied from the editors.

Use these in whatever way you wish, for your department heads' information, for students in classes, for your own local stringers, or otherwise.

We'll be happy to have any comments from you, or to supply further information.

Sincerely,



Theo Sommerkamp

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By Theo Sommerkamp

# Baptist Press

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HAVE YOU EVER PICKED up the morning paper and wondered what the various capital letters enclosed in parentheses meant?

You once saw (AP), (UP), and (INS) most often. In other papers you also saw (NEA) or (NANA). Then more recently, you have seen (UPI), and these are not all.

These abbreviations stand for the major news gathering and distributing agencies. (AP) is the renowned Associated Press. (UP) stood for United Press until it merged in 1958 with (INS), International News Service, to form (UPI), United Press International.

Lesser known but still very active are (NEA), Newspapers Enterprise Association, and (NANA), North American Newspaper Alliance.

(BP) stands for Baptist Press, the news service for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The term "Press" can also mean several things. As in the case of Broadman Press, it refers to the organization publishing books for the Sunday School Board. Sometimes the word "Press" also denotes the ownership and operation of large printing presses where stories take form in print. This is most common.

"Press" in the general sense of the popular "Meet the Press" refers to the men and women who gather the news. Most of them have little or nothing to do with the mechanics of printing the news through operation of large presses.

Baptist Press belongs in this last category. It is a news gathering, news distributing agency, but as with Associated Press, it has nothing to do with the oper-

ation of a newspaper. It simply supplies news on a large scale to many newspapers.

The Associated Press and United Press International serve the field of daily newspapers. The Baptist Press serves the twenty-eight Baptist state papers, most of them weekly, published from coast to coast by state conventions in affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Baptist Press was launched in 1947 at the request of the editors of the state Baptist papers. They wanted a service to cover Convention-wide news which they felt as individual editors they could not cover as thoroughly.

The philosophy of the Associated Press was followed. In the operation of the Associated Press, user newspapers are members of the news agency. A reporter for the newspaper is a reporter for the Associated Press, in effect, although of course the (AP) employs hundreds of news gatherers on a direct basis. The managing editors of user (AP) newspapers get together and help improve coverage through criticism and suggestions.

The Baptist editors turned to the Ex-

ecutive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, which set up the Baptist Press within its publications (now public relations) office. Unlike the Associated Press, the Baptist Press makes no charge or assessment to the papers. In other words, the Executive Committee bears the full expense of the news gathering and distribution costs to the state papers. This is done as a willing service to Baptist journalism.

The editors keep in close contact with Baptist Press because it is their service. The staff of Baptist Press calls on editors as members of the service to contribute news of Convention-wide interest taking place in their states. The Baptist Press reports each year to the meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the state editors being the majority in this association. The editors ask questions about the service and make recommendations for improvements then as well as separately during the year.

The Baptist Press supplies the news in two ways—via the new SBC teletype service to papers subscribing to this, and by air mail in mimeograph form to papers not on the teletype. Releases move daily on the teletype, and three to five times weekly in mail form. More and more state papers are moving their deadlines for copy closer to the actual date of issue. The Baptist Press strives to match this by getting the news out without delay.

Since the Executive Committee of the SBC provides another service as the Convention's press representative, Baptist Press has another important function. It is a means through which Southern Baptist Convention news reaches the desks of the national (AP) and (UPI) religion editors and the attention of religion editors on daily newspapers. It also sends the material on exchange with various Baptist groups (other than the SBC) and with other religious denominations. In the exchange arrangement, Baptist Press gets news releases from these other groups and thus keeps abreast of their doings.

The Baptist Press also contributes \$2200 a year to the operation of Religious News Service, a non-denominational agency covering news of all religious bodies. Through (RNS), Baptist news reaches many additional outlets.

Baptist Press maintains its main office in Nashville and regional offices in Washington, D. C.; Dallas, and Atlanta. W. C. Fields of Nashville is director and Theo Sommerkamp of Nashville is assistant director. Regional editors are W. Barry Garrett, Washington; Lloyd Wright, Dallas; and Walker L. Knight, Atlanta.

END

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from  
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Program