

December 21, 1961

Pioneer Pastor Fired
From Part-Time Job

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. (BP)--A Baptist minister here lost his weekday job as bookkeeper for a lumber company apparently because he battled to close a local house of prostitution.

The preacher, LaVern A. Inzer of First Baptist Church, had asked Nevada Atty. Gen. Roger Foley to use his authority in helping to bring about the house's closing.

The job-firing came to light when members of the church congregation wrote a leading daily newspaper in Reno about the incident. Inzer confirmed it.

"I have no animosity," he added. "I admire my former boss if that is his conviction."

Students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., where Inzer formerly studied, presented the crusading pastor with an automobile and food.

Inzer said he won't carry the fight to his pulpit. "I have more important things to preach about. If I am going to live in a town, I want law and order."

He said Foley and some other law enforcement officials wrote him they were "shocked" to learn "that as a result of your courageous attempt to bring about the enforcement of the law" he lost his job.

In young churches, ministers often must take outside employment on weekdays to support their families until the day church offerings are large enough to pay a full-time salary. The Winnemucca church had 53 members and annual offerings of \$5650 in 1960. It allotted \$1300 for pastor's salary.

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Watch Night Services
Stress New Churches

(12-21-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist churches welcomed the new year with prayer for God's blessing and leadership in starting 6000 churches and missions during 1962.

The prayers were part of watch night services New Year's Eve sponsored by the Training Union department of the Convention's Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"We have made plans and preparations for 1962 under divine guidance, we believe," said Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta in announcing the watch night emphasis. He is chairman for the SBC 1962 Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee.

"It is through prayer our churches and people still find the power of God so urgently needed now as we face the opportunities and responsibilities of the year ahead," he added.

The new year has been designated "Year of Church Extension" by seven Baptist groups of North America which are engaged in a Baptist Jubilee Advance emphasis from 1959-1964. The final year marks 150 years of organized Baptist work in North America.

The year of church extension also coincides with Southern Baptists' emphasis on their 30,000 Movement, a drive to organize 20,000 missions and 10,000 churches by 1964. Already more than 14,000 have been started.

The 6000 goal set for 1962 is by far the largest that the denomination has sought. Efforts during the year will include some 1500 laymen giving vacation time and paying their own expenses to start missions, preachers holding revivals in mission stations and heavy stress by all churches and organizations of the denomination toward church extension.

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Bellevue Members Vote
To Keep Ramsey Pollard

MEMPHIS (BP)--Members of Bellevue Baptist Church here, second-largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention, voted 1,190 to 808 to keep their pastor, Ramsey Pollard.

The secret ballot followed a full morning of worship services and a three-hour discussion during the afternoon. Charges ranged from failure to provide spiritual leadership to smoking an occasional cigar.

Eugene D. Rutland, chairman of the church's publicity committee and a leader of the opposition, issued this statement for both sides after the vote:

"Members of Bellevue Baptist Church have resolved their problems in the democratic process by which all Baptist churches solve their difficulties. Leaders of both sides have pledged themselves to close ranks and present a unified effort behind the church program."

Bellevue, which claims a membership of more than 9000, called Pollard as pastor almost two years ago while he served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The following day, members of the Shelby Baptist Pastors' Conference voted unanimously to express to Pollard their "complete confidence and love" and pledged their prayers in behalf of the preacher and his church.

Pollard, one of 65 ministers attending the conference, spiked reports he planned to resign by stating he and the church would continue together.

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Brotherhood Changes
Assembly Activities

(12-21-61)

MYRTLE BEACH, S. C. (BP)--Plans were approved here to change Brotherhood programs at Southern Baptist Convention assemblies in Ridgecrest, N. C., and Glorieta, N. M.

Starting with next summer's assemblies, seminar discussions designed to lead the men into depth studies regarding their personal relationship to Christ and their mission in the world as Christians will become a major part of these programs.

This will replace to some extent the former plan designed to give information on Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador organizational methods and procedures.

The 46 state leaders and members of the SBC Brotherhood Commission staff also pledged their support to a new and advanced thrust for the Cooperative Program. The occasion here was the annual Brotherhood Leadership Conference.

They agreed to try to lead men and boys to become more concerned about the world mission task as financed through the Cooperative Program, the financial lifeline of the Convention.

This came as a result of the concern which is currently being expressed by Southern Baptist Convention leaders for the lag in Cooperative Program gifts. Through November, the budget (discounting the advance section) called for \$18,513,500, and the income was only \$16,074,296.

This means Southern Baptist agencies will fail to get enough for their capital needs budgets unless Southern Baptists give \$2.5 million during December. This is not expected by even the most optimistic.

George W. Schroeder, commission executive secretary, of Memphis, challenged Brotherhood leaders to set the example in leading Baptist men to take a more active part in community life through civic, service and community clubs.

E. A. Andrews Jr., secretary, Division of Men's Work, Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Richmond, Va., told Brotherhood leaders many laymen today feel the church is not meeting their spiritual needs in applying faith to life.

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As a result, they are turning to other organizations, many of which are retreat-type and not controlled by the church.

"Already there are about 65 such organizations in the United States," said Andrews. "Most of them are patterned after the academies which sprang up in Europe in recent years where laymen were not made to feel needed in the clergy-dominated church.

"Times demand a renewed interest in world missions, the original emphasis of Brotherhood, and recent activities of men indicate a readiness for action," declared one of the six study groups working on problems and possibilities for Brotherhoods and Royal Ambassadors.

Another group praised the Brotherhood Commission for its leadership in sending laymen into pioneer areas to do mission work, but suggested that the commission, in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, work out definite policies for these crusaders.

Another study group started plans for an enlarged and improved Royal Ambassador associational organization.

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Folks and Facts.....

(12-21-61)

.....Jacksonville University, a comparatively new school at Jacksonville, Fla., presented a distinguished service award to Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission. While vice-president of Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., Brantley (with two others) launched the college on its way to successful accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. (BP)

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1-1/4 Million Attend
Mission Study Schools

(12-21-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--Study in schools of missions attracted more than 1,236,000 Southern Baptists in 3325 of the Convention churches during 1961.

"Many other churches would have provided schools, but the number of missionaries available limits them," said L. W. Martin of Atlanta, secretary of the Missionary Education Department of the Home Mission Board of the Convention.

The schools are intensive, week-long considerations of missions through use of age-graded mission books, missionary speakers, visual aids and rallies. They are sponsored jointly by the Convention's State, Home, and Foreign Mission Boards.

The announcement of the figures was made to directors of schools of missions from the state Baptist conventions at their annual meeting.

The group elected William B. Denson of Richmond, Va., president; Foy Rogers of Jackson, Miss., vice-president, and Kenneth Day of Detroit, Mich., secretary.

Next year's meeting in Atlanta will be Dec. 12-13.

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

December 21, 1961

Editor's Note: This is the fifteenth in the Series on SBC agencies.

Annuity Board Removes Fear From Retirement

By John D. Bloskas
for Baptist Press

Tears dimmed a widow's eyes as she looked at a check she had just received from the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board in Dallas, Tex.

"Even in death, Daddy's helping to care for us," she whispered to her new baby.

The widow's husband, a young pastor, had died a few days before. While he was living, his church and state Baptist convention participated in the protection plan which the Annuity Board administers for Southern Baptists.

Because dues were paid in this plan for him, his wife will get a check as long as she lives and remains a widow.

Meanwhile a 68-year-old pastor gave up his pulpit to enter a new era of his life--retirement.

In another city, a minister was forced to give up his pastorate because he had become permanently disabled due to a bad heart.

Like the widow's husband, both of these men were in the protection plan. They, and 5,000 other persons, are getting checks regularly from the Annuity Board.

Each year, the number of persons receiving benefits through the protection plan ministry increases. During the second quarter of 1961 for example, 101 persons were added to the annuitants list.

Another 24,000 persons who are employed in churches and almost 100 denominational agencies, boards and institutions are covered by the protection plan against future financial needs because of retirement, death or disability.

The idea for the Annuity Board was born more than 50 years ago when William Lunsford, a noted pastor from Virginia, expressed a deep concern for Southern Baptists' aged preachers.

An aged preacher who belonged to Lunsford's church may have initiated the spark. Lunsford remembered the old man had been an active preacher just a few years before, but age had forced him to give up his pastorate and become entirely dependent on friends.

In this old man, Lunsford saw the plight of thousands of old preachers who had reached the end of their active ministry.

He told fellow pastors about his thoughts and inspired other Southern Baptists with his idea. In 1918, during the Southern Baptist Convention in Hot Springs, Ark., they created the Southern Baptist Relief and Annuity Board.

A gift of \$100,000 from the Sunday School Board put the Board into operation. A plan was initiated to help the pastor set aside a small part of his annual salary for his retirement.

The original plan was fine for the pastor who had time to prepare for retirement. But there were many preachers who were already retired. Something was needed for them.

So, a relief program was created to help these old timers. Today, less than 1000 persons are on the relief roll, which is supported from a \$300,000 annual allowance from the Cooperative Program.

Because relief has assumed a minor part of the Annuity Board's vast ministry, the Southern Baptist Convention in 1960 voted to delete the words "Relief and" from the Board's former name, "Relief and Annuity Board."

Through the years, the protection plan has been modified to keep up with the rises in cost of living and to give protection to all salaried employees.

Today, only one basic plan is open to new members. This is the Southern Baptist Protection Plan which is designed to protect the pastor and his family, regardless of the church's size, and each state convention. Employees of SBC agencies also take part in a retirement plan.

Cost of the plan is based on 15 per cent of the pastor's annual salary up to \$4000. The church assumes 10 per cent of this cost, with the state convention paying the remaining five per cent.

For persons who make more than \$4000 a year, two supplemental plans are available. These are the Age Security Plan and the Variable Annuity Fund.

With thousands of Southern Baptists paying dues, these funds held in trust for their future continue to grow rapidly. These funds are not placed in a vault to lie unused but are put into financially sound investments to earn interest.

Interest made on these investments, which are carefully studied by a finance committee made up of leading Baptist businessmen, is returned to the reserve funds from which retirement, disability and widow benefits are paid.

The Cooperative Program supports only the relief payments. The retirement plan is based on individual contributions of participants.

R. Alton Reed, Dallas, executive secretary of the Board, said the Annuity Board has strived to abide by its original purpose--to provide a reasonable amount of protection for all salaried servants of the denomination at a small cost.

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel..." Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 9:14, a verse which the board feels its ministry typifies.

Through the Annuity Board's ministry, Baptists are helping provide for the employed servant while he is in the active ministry and for the times of unforeseen need or retirements through the protection plan ministry.

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Cutlines to Annuity Board feature photo:

WELCOME MAIL--When the first of each month comes 'round, the Henry T. Brannons of Arlington, Tex., look forward to the retirement check from the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board. They are typical of the more than 5000 receiving such benefits. (BP) Photo.

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BAPTIST PRESS

A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE

for Southern Baptists' Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, Annuity Board, Home Mission Board Division of Evangelism and Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

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December 21, 1961

Billy Graham to Speak At Japan Baptist Crusade

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham told Southern Baptist leaders here that he would participate as a major speaker in a vast *Japan Baptist Crusade* slated in the spring of 1963.

Graham said he would re-arrange his schedule to devote about two weeks to the Baptist-sponsored evangelistic effort.

Preliminary plans call for Graham to speak at four central crusades in major Japan population centers. Graham will climax the central crusades with a huge revival service at the 100,000-seat Olympic stadium in Tokyo.

The central crusades will be followed by revivals in 80-100 major cities in Japan if present plans are carried out.

Graham made the decision to devote two weeks to the crusade after a conference here with leaders from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The decision had been in the making for nearly a year and a half. Japanese Baptists sent the chairman of their evangelism department, Shuichi Matsumara, to the United States in May of 1960 to invite Graham to participate in a great city-wide campaign in Tokyo.

Baptists in other large cities in Japan wanted Graham to lead an entire nation-wide crusade, but Graham said previous commitments would not allow him to spend more than a few days in Japan.

In the conference here, Graham said he would be a speaker in the Baptist-sponsored crusade, but could not take the entire Billy Graham team and lead a "Billy Graham Crusade" as such in Japan in 1963.

He will speak on the crusade program as the guest of the Japan Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Texas Baptists, meeting for their annual convention in Austin last November, voted to sponsor the Japan Baptist Crusade, and pledged efforts to raise \$300,000 for the "venture in faith."

Messengers to the Texas Baptist convention elected a nine-member coordinating committee to help make plans for the five-week crusade and select preachers and laymen from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to participate in the effort.

Meanwhile, in Japan, the evangelism committee of the Japan Baptist Convention named committees to handle every phase of planning and preparation for the crusade.

Among the new committees named by Japan Baptists were liaison, executive, prayer, study, public relations, publication, external affairs, hall, music, and finance. A planning and invitation committee has been functioning for some time.

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Exact dates of the crusade and the number of participants from the United States are still indefinite.

Four, possibly six, representatives from the Japan Baptist Convention will come to the United States in mid-January to help coordinate plans for the crusade with the SBC Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Southern Baptist Missionary W. H. "Dub" Jackson, who has been serving as liaison representative for the Japan Baptist Convention, will return to Japan in late January after a year's furlough laying groundwork for the crusade with Baptists in America.

J. Winston Crawley, secretary to the Orient for the Foreign Mission Board, will go to Japan in late February to meet with Japan Baptist Convention committees to determine exact dates for the crusade, number of preachers and laymen needed from the states, and complete other plans.

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N. C. Governor Appraises
Annuity Board Transaction

(12-21-61)

DALLAS (BP)--The governor of North Carolina told a Southern Baptist Annuity Board official that its purchase of a textile plant in Cornelius, N. C., did not give the Annuity Board special tax advantages.

Governor Terry Sanford's opinion was expressed in a recent letter to Fred W. Noe, treasurer of the Annuity Board following a challenge made by a newspaper editorial which urged state officials to "look into the purchase...for any possible loopholes in tax laws which such transactions might point up."

Noe countered to the editorial, published in the Raleigh News and Observer, that any state or local taxes that would be paid by any other similar agency are being paid on the property.

The Annuity Board purchased the Cornelius plant in September as a part of its investment program and in turn leased it to Reeves Brothers, a manufacturing company. Price of the plant was one million dollars.

Governor Sanford said in his letter that the Annuity Board's purchase of the building "does not, in my opinion, vary from a well-established practice of many foundations, trusts and pension funds."

"Your procedures," the Governor said, "do not give your board any advantage that is not enjoyed by other similar groups, either lay or religious,"

Governor Sanford also praised the Baptists for their church-state stand.

"Of all religious bodies," he said, "I know that none believes more heartily in complete separation of church and state and in avoiding special government favors more than Baptists. They have traditionally manifested this as a basic tenet of their faith."

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board administers the retirement plans for Southern Baptist ministers, church and denominational employees who pay dues and premiums into the program toward their retirement.

In turn, the Annuity Board invests the money in various types of investments such as lease backs, mortgage loans, bonds and stocks.

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NOTE TO BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS:

This weekend Baptist Press expects to mail to you a picture of Brooks Hays greeting Pope John XXIII at the Vatican.

Washington Baptist Press Office

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**Two-State Group Aims
At Doubling Missions**

MADISON, Wisc. (BP)--Every Southern Baptist Church in the Wisconsin-Minnesota Baptist Association has adopted a goal to establish a new mission or preaching station by October of 1962.

The 14 churches and three missions set the goal as their part in the Baptist Jubilee Advance for church extension, said Frank B. Burress, superintendent of missions for the association.

Organized in 1956, the two-state Baptist association has expanded until it now encompasses 1,785 members over a vast area.

American Baptists, who have been working in Wisconsin and Minnesota for more than a century, have 139 churches there. Combined population of the two states is seven million.

During the past year, churches in the Wisconsin-Minnesota Association baptized 168 people, 20 more than their previous high. Ratio of baptisms is about one for every 11 members compared to the Southern Baptist Convention average of about one for every 25 church members.

The work in the two states is jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Through financial backing chiefly by Texas Baptist churches and associations, 12 of the churches have buildings of their own.

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**Fort Worth Church
Robbed of \$3,000**

(12-21-61)

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--Thieves cracked a walk-in vault at Travis Avenue Baptist Church here, taking more than \$3,000 in Christmas offerings, most of it for foreign mission causes.

To enter the vault, the robbers knocked a hole through the 14-inch brick wall of the vault.

Pastor James Coggin said the church would stage an all-out effort to raise enough Christmas offerings to replace the stolen \$3,000.

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**Sickening Gas Stops
Church Music Program**

(12-21-61)

HOUSTON, Tex. (BP)--A sickening sweet gas overcame several members of the Brookhaven Baptist Church here, breaking up the church's annual Christmas music program.

At least eight persons were admitted to Houston hospitals. Most recovered when they obtained oxygen.

Source of the gas, later identified as carbon monoxide, was not known.

One member of the church said the gas was very sweet-smelling and did not smell like natural gas. The gas made the members deathly sick, gave them a headache, and finally caused them to black out, witnesses said.

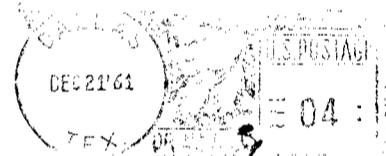
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