

July 1, 1959

Maryland Undertaking  
Appraisal Of Work

BALTIMORE--(BP)--The Maryland Baptist State Mission Board voted here to authorize a survey of the work of Maryland Baptists by a committee of six appointed by the president of the board.

The committee's assignment is "to try to anticipate the needed progress and development of Maryland Baptists and to endeavor to balance this progress with the purposes, best interests, and resources of our state."

A report of findings and recommendations is to be made to the state mission board. The board will make such recommendations as it deems wise to the state association.

The action came as a recommendation of the board's executive committee. Serving ex-officio on the survey committee will be the president of the board, Rowland McD. Ness of Baltimore; the chairman of the executive committee, J. A. Bearden of Baltimore; and Roy D. Gresham, Baltimore, executive secretary, Maryland Baptist Union Association.

The employment of professional help was not authorized.

Also approved by the board at its quarterly meeting was the appointment of Louie A. Vines, pastor, Fairview Heights Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va., as Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia field representative for the Southern Baptist Relief and Annuity Board. Boards of the other two state Baptist bodies have already approved Vines, who will work under joint supervision of the R&A Board and the three state boards.

-30-

Maryland Migrants  
Missionary Matter

BALTIMORE--(BP)--The spiritual and physical needs of over 6,000 Negro migrant workers on the DelMarVa Peninsula are spotlighted in a cover picture and double spread in the July 1 issue of *The Maryland Baptist*.

All of Delaware, the eastern shore of Maryland, and part of the eastern shore of Virginia are located on this peninsula situated between the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. Migrant workers flock there every summer to help harvest the crops.

Pictured on the cover of the semi-monthly *Maryland Baptist* is a typical migrant family. They are shown in front of one of the one-room shanties in which the workers live in 31 labor camps.

The cutline says, "Unwanted by any church, white or Negro, they prick the social conscience and stir the missionary concern of every Christian able to recognize human need in persons of a different race and color."

In an illustrated double spread on pages 2 and 3 Editor Gainer Bryan, Jr., calls the plight of the migrants "A Maryland Mission Challenge."

Robert Atkins, a Maryland layman, has been employed by the Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland to supervise migrant missions on the eastern shore this summer.

Several Baptist churches conduct Sunday afternoon services and vacation Bible schools for the migrants and distribute "health kits" and clothing. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board used to have a missionary couple laboring among the itinerant workers of the eastern shore but has none at present.

-30-