

July 18, 1959

### 42 Migrants Converted On Maryland Peninsula

SALISBURY, Md.--(BP)--Forty-two Negro migrant workers made professions of faith in Christ in a single service conducted under the auspices of Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland on the eastern shore of Maryland the night of July 7.

The service was held at Westover Labor Camp, about 19 miles south of Salisbury. It was directed by Robert Adkins, Pocomoke City, Md., employed by the state WMU as Eastern district associational migrant leader.

Elmer Pryor, pastor of the Girdletree, Md., Baptist Church, preached. The invitation was continued for an hour.

"I have never felt the Spirit of the Lord in a greater way than I felt that night," said Mrs. Willis Hall of Pocomoke City, state president of the WMU.

Workers from the Marion, Goodwill, and Pocomoke City Baptist churches took part.

The new converts were baptized, as migrant workers have been for years, in the dark, swift-flowing waters of Pocomoke River. They entered the water at the edge of the front yard of Willis Hall, a farmer who employs many of the migrants.

These churchless wanderers flock to the DelMarVa Peninsula--so called because it covers three states--every summer to help harvest the crops of strawberries, string beans, potatoes, and tomatoes. Maryland's eastern shore, as well as the eastern shore of Virginia and all of Delaware, is located on this peninsula.

The migrant workers were described as a "Maryland mission challenge" in a recent issue of The Maryland Baptist, state paper of the Maryland Baptist Union Association.

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### Law Change Affects Churches In Florida

MIAMI, Fla.--(BP)--Unsuspecting churches in Greater Miami are in for an estimated \$60,000 tax jolt in the coming year.

Apparently unnoticed by practically everyone, the recent Florida state legislature knocked out provisions of the law on the state sales tax that gave churches a break on the cost of construction of new buildings.

Since churches in the area have averaged more than \$2,000,000 worth of construction annually, an estimated \$60,000 will be tacked on to cost of construction in the coming year because of the sales tax on materials used.

What happened, according to Fred Puffer, regional tax supervisor, is this:

The sales tax law originally provided that a contractor erecting a building for any branch of the federal, state or local government could get a tax exemption on materials purchased for such jobs.

By administrative ruling, the state comptroller extended this exemption to materials being used for buildings for churches, educational institutions or charitable organizations.

The 1959 legislature amended the law so that contractors will have to pay the sales tax on materials used for work for a governmental unit after Aug. 1.

This change automatically eliminated the administrative ruling extending exemption to churches, and the like.

However, Puffer pointed out, the law still provides that a church may be exempted from the sales tax on any item it purchases using the tax exemption number assigned by the state.

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So if a church buys the construction materials instead of the contractor doing the buying, then the three per cent tax remains off, according to Puffer.

Jerry Nagle, general manager of the Wittera Construction Co., reported the situation looks dark for the churches. His firm has built 15 churches in the past five years, including such large ones as Riverside Baptist.

"It would be almost impossible for a church to go out on its own and buy all the materials needed to construct any large building," he said. "This will probably mean that contractors will have to include the tax in their bids from now on and churches will have to pay that much more for their new buildings."

"The paper work under any other arrangement would be so terrific that it would be almost impossible."

Protestant churches with building plans in the offing were being urged to take advantage of one opening still left in the law. The new provisions will not take effect until Aug. 1. Contracts signed before that date will not be affected.

So a flurry of church building may start in the next two weeks.

And the chancery of the Miami Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church said it too was taking the situation under study in order to meet the unexpected problem.

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#### California Men Set 1960 Golf Tournament

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--A statewide golf tournament will be sponsored for ministers and laymen at the 1960 Brotherhood convention which will be held here, June 2-4.

This was the decision reached by the organization of California Southern Baptist men at their 1959 convention in Long Beach.

The convention, which was held simultaneously with the annual Royal Ambassador Congress, drew 430 men and boys.

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#### Wingate College Chapel Construction To Start

WINGATE, N. C.--(BP)--Wingate College here will begin construction immediately on a new chapel-auditorium to seat 1000. The apparent low bid on the project was \$194,885.

Furnishings will increase the cost to above \$225,000. The junior college is operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

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#### Population Frontiers Challenge Historians

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The "frontiers of population" will challenge Baptist historians of today and tomorrow because an increase in population will bring with it a need to declare afresh the heritage and distinctives held by Baptists.

This was proclaimed by Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary-elect of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here. He addressed the annual meeting of the Commission, the first since his election.

Woolley, who succeeds retiring Dr. Norman W. Cox on Aug. 31, said that as Baptist historians "we are in this business as pioneers and there are frontiers yet we must face and overcome.

"The frontiers of truth and the frontiers of ideas are still ours. This age demands that we do pioneer work in all areas that are our heritage. We must keep repeating the distinctives that have made us what we are," he continued.

Woolley commented that "Baptists have made good pioneers because of their faith, the truth they hold, and the fact that they were non-conformists. Non-conformists make good pioneers."

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He said that the expanding Southern Baptist missionary enterprise presents a challenge to Baptist historians. "Every missionary's work needs to be recorded. You remember the thrill of reading your first missionary biography," he reminded them.

The work of the Historical Commission, according to Woolley, is to gather together materials so that agencies of the Convention may have them for reference.

He spoke of the contributions made by two pioneers in developing Baptist historical collections---the late Dr. W. O. Carver of Louisville, seminary professor and one of the founders of present Baptist historical groups, and Dr. Cox, retiring executive secretary.

"We dedicate ourselves to be pioneers on the Baptist frontiers of the future," he said. He added that the Historical Commission's partnership with the Baptist Sunday School Board in operation of a library and in other matters of preserving Baptist historical records "is the most valuable feature of teamwork for the Commission."

Woolley also pledged continuing teamwork with the historians of Baptist state societies and with leaders of other Baptist agencies in the Southern Baptist Convention and various state conventions.

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#### Oregon-Washington Votes State Survey

PORTLAND, Ore.--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington voted here to undertake a survey of the work of the convention.

The convention president appointed a committee of five to formulate suggestions for long-range planning. Committee members are Herman E. Wooten, Richland, Wash.; Cecil C. Sims, Wenatchee, Wash.; George Friesen, Seattle, Wash.; Roy Shahan, Salem, Ore., and Mrs. Lester P. Stone, Kelso, Wash.

The executive board further voted to appoint a three-member committee to study the separation of church and state. The convention president will appoint this committee later.

A tentative proposed 1960 convention budget of \$151,000, with an additional \$8000 for advance goals, was discussed. The final budget proposal will be drafted by the board at its pre-convention meeting this fall. Then the convention in annual session must approve it.

Austin Lovin, Tacoma, Wash., pastor, was called to fill the vacancy in the convention's position of missionary in southern Oregon. Lovin took the call under consideration.

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#### Historians Pay Tribute To Retiring Dr. Cox

NASHVILLE --(BP)--"It's only 4:30 in the morning as far as our opportunity is concerned," Dr. Norman W. Cox said in predicting the future for Southern Baptist historical groups.

Dr. Cox, 70, will retire Aug. 31 as executive secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, a post he has held for 8½ years here.

At the final meeting of the Historical Commission and its affiliate, the Southern Baptist Historical Society, during Dr. Cox's active leadership, he was presented with many tributes to his work.

The Commission presented Dr. and Mrs. Cox with a high-fidelity record player, radio, and tape recorder at a banquet in their honor. Dr. Cox came to the Historical Commission in 1951 from pastorate of First Baptist Church, Meridian, Miss.

Harold E. Ingraham, director of the service division, Baptist Sunday School Board here, noted that "Dr. Cox, after a full life and contribution in the pastorate, entered a new field and made another major contribution---one of the few men who is able to do so.

"As executive secretary," Ingraham continued, "he has made Southern Baptists conscious of their history."

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Dr. Cox declared, "I have stood in the midst of a continuing miracle these 8½ years. Only one thing has bothered me, success. It has about run me to death."

During his tenure, the Historical Commission has gathered monographs for, and the Sunday School Board has published, the two-volume Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists. It was a task that many predicted would be impossible when it was first announced.

The Commission has microfilmed millions of pages of Baptist history data. This has included "every recoverable set of minutes of every association in every state which has had an organized convention for 15 years, except for the states of North Carolina and Virginia," according to Dr. Cox.

In addition, the Commission has launched Operation Baptist Biography, to be a "book of remembrance" for tens of thousands of Baptists--laymen and women as well as pastors and denominational workers.

Dr. Cox has been untiring in efforts to secure either original manuscripts or microfilm records of Baptist history matter in the United states and even abroad.

These are on file in the Dargan-Carver Library in the Baptist Sunday School Board's administration building in Nashville. The library is jointly maintained by the board and the Historical Commission.

Charles H. Stone, librarian at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., presented Dr. Cox with a resolution of tribute to him adopted by the historical society of Georgia Baptist Convention recently. Dr. Cox is a native of south Georgia.

Dr. Cox will live in Mobile, Ala., where he was formerly a pastor, during retirement. His book, "God and Ourselves," based on Luke 15, will be published in January by the Sunday School Board. He said he was planning to write two other books.

He said that in the last decade Southern Baptists have developed a history awareness, but added that this awareness will need further stimulation.

The Commission voted to secure a portrait of Dr. Cox which will be hung in the offices here.

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St. Louis Area College  
Recommended For Vote

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The recommendation of two special committees to establish a Baptist college in the Greater St. Louis area was approved here by the executive board of Missouri Baptist Convention.

Final decision on the recommendation will be made by the convention in its annual meeting, Oct. 27-29, in Kansas City.

The action followed two years of study by the convention's education committee and a special institutional committee, assisted by R. Orin Cornett, special educational consultant, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

According to Ralph Smith, Kirksville, Mo., chairman of the special committee, the survey showed a "critical shortage" of college facilities in the St. Louis area in view of the expected increase of college-age youth in the late 1960's. The study also revealed that 7500 youths now enrolled in St. Louis Baptist Sunday schools will be ready for college by 1968.

The executive board will also recommend to the convention that a financial campaign by St. Louis Baptist Association to raise \$1½ million in the St. Louis metropolitan area be approved. The school committee of the St. Louis group would direct the campaign in which appeal would be made to individuals, foundations, and business concerns.

Further developments toward establishment of the college would wait on the successful completion of the St. Louis campaign which would be concluded in three years. The site for the school, according to the board's action, would be chosen by the school committee of St. Louis Association and the executive board of the convention.

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Another action of the board in its meeting here was approval of the plan by the Home for Aged Baptists, Ironton, Mo., to erect a \$200,000 addition to its housing facilities for aged Baptists. The addition would accommodate 25 more persons.

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Historical Groups  
Re-Elect Officers

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Two Nashvillians have been elected to lead Southern Baptist historical groups during the coming year.

J. P. Edmunds, secretary of research and statistics for the Baptist Sunday School Board, was re-elected chairman of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

W. Fred Kendall of Nashville, executive secretary of Tennessee Baptist Convention, was elected vice-chairman of the Commission; Mrs. Richmond O. Brown, Nashville, recording secretary, and Davis C. Woolley, treasurer, effective on the retirement of Norman W. Cox on Aug. 31.

Woolley will succeed Cox as Commission executive secretary on that date also, having been elected to that position several months ago.

Richard N. Owen, editor of the Tennessee denominational weekly newspaper, Baptist and Reflector, will again head the Southern Baptist Historical Society--a voluntary group of historians--with Miss Nelle Davidson, librarian of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary serving as vice-president.

The Historical Commission and Historical Society will hold their 1960 annual meetings in Nashville July 12-14.

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Check Your Old Files  
For Baptist History

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Think again before you burn those old records in the attic!

They may contain material of Baptist historical interest. Baptist historians said here that Baptist families in several instances have thrown away or burned old files---inherited from father and grandfather---which are rich in Baptist history.

"These files may not be too valuable in terms of dollars and cents but they are extremely valuable as historical records," the historians continued.

In one instance, some records of Charles Journeycake, early Delaware Indian convert to Baptists, were destroyed when a house-cleaner did not recognize their importance.

A Texas pastor's wife reported that old records with facts of Baptist life in another day were burned when a cleaning woman thought they were only trash cluttering up her pantry.

Historians, in fact, would like for you to check on your family documents, particularly if the family has been Baptist for several generations.

While you may have no intention of burning the records due to their family ties, you may be able to supply important Baptist information recorded in letters, clippings from old newspapers, and in other ways by an ancestor.

If you discover references to Baptist churches in old family files, the historians urge you to contact the librarian of the nearest Southern Baptist college (where historical files are kept) or to write the office of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

The sooner they are in the hands of the historians, the less the chance they may be lost or accidentally destroyed. If you want to keep the original records yourself, the historical collections can place them on microfilm for their files and return the originals to you.

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Union List Of Baptist  
Serials To Be Printed

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Files of Baptist periodicals, particularly those issued many years ago, won't be as difficult to locate after a Union List of Baptist Serials is published.

Plans for the Union List of Baptist Serials were discussed at the meeting here of the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The publication was first envisioned in 1938 by L. R. Elliott, retired librarian of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Elliott's successor, Charles Johnson, announced that he and Elliott have accumulated records of 2067 titles of Baptist periodicals. Some of them were published outside the United States. They are located in about 100 libraries in America and abroad.

The Union of List of Baptist Serials, while following the pattern of a publication by a recognized library firm listing general titles and their locations, will confine itself to Baptist periodicals.

By means of a code system, the Union List of Baptist Serials will tell historians, students in research, and librarians the titles of known Baptist periodicals, existing as well as defunct; the dates each title was issued, the libraries where these periodicals are on file, and the issues which each library has available.

It is expected to prove a great boon to seminary librarians and graduate students, because of the research done about Baptist life of past years. A preliminary Union List has been circulated so that corrections and additions may be made.

Later the formal publication will be distributed widely to libraries of Baptist colleges and agencies, and to Baptist historical groups.

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Fresh Look To Be Taken  
On Church-State Issue

GLORIETA, N. M.--(BP)--Baptists will take a fresh look at church-state relations during the annual Christian Life Commission conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

The conference to be held Aug. 6-11 is sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

C. Arthur Insko, associate professor of preaching and Christian ethics at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., will lecture each morning on the theme.

Following his lectures will be a daily discussion period led by W. Barry Garrett, Washington, associate director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. There will be a second discussion period each evening.

Insko's subject on Friday--the opening lecture--will be "The Biblical Basis for Church-State Separation." On Saturday, the topic will be, "The Historical Baptist Position on Separation of Church and State."

On Monday and Tuesday he will speak on current movements influencing church and state separation. This will include laws in Congress and state legislatures, and other nationwide developments in government or among church organizations.

A. C. Miller, Nashville, executive secretary of the Commission, said the conference is designed especially for members of public affairs and religious liberty committees of state Baptist conventions.

Foy Valentine, Dallas, executive secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian life commission, will be present for the conference.

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Arkansas Charts New  
Work, Plans Budget

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--The executive board of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, in its annual summer meeting here approved a proposed budget of \$1,725,000 for 1960, to be submitted at the annual meeting of the convention here in November for final action.

It also empowered a committee to secure a site for a new Baptist Building to be erected in the next four or five years;

Voted to recommend that the convention borrow \$200,000 to purchase the new site for the Baptist Building and the site for a state camp, and for improvement of Baptist state camp and assembly facilities;

Authorized a committee to study during the coming year the advisability of the convention accepting the proposal of the trustees of Southern Baptist College, independent Baptist junior college at Walnut Ridge, Ark., that this college be given to the convention;

Named two new staff members, and created a new department; and

Appropriated \$19,000 from convention funds to match a similar amount from the Pulaski County (Little Rock) Baptist Association for erecting and equipping a Baptist student center at University of Arkansas Medical Center, Little Rock.

The proposed budget for 1960 would be an increase of \$25,000 over the convention's current budget and would be divided on the percentage basis of 55.7 per cent for state convention causes; 36 per cent for Southern Baptist Convention causes; and 8.3 per cent for state capital needs.

Named to succeed J. Edgar Williamson as secretary of the Sunday school department of the state convention was Lawson Hatfield, Little Rock native who is now superintendent of new work for the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board, with headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

Hatfield will begin his new duties Oct. 15, before Williamson's retirement Jan. 1. He is a graduate of Central High School, Little Rock, Ouachita College, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and formerly served as pastor of First Baptist Churches of Ashdown, DeQueen, Fordyce, and of Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, all in Arkansas.

Mrs. Hatfield is the former Miss Juanita Gill, of Arkadelphia, Ark.

Elected assistant to the editor of the Arkansas Baptist was Jerry Tolbert, of Pine Bluff, Ark., a journalism major from the University of Texas.

Employment of a full-time secretary of a newly-created department of relief and annuity was authorized. The board voted to recommend to the convention that the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, which has operated under its own board of directors, be placed under the direction of the convention's executive board.

Of the \$200,000 loan being sought by the board, \$25,000 would be for a suitable state camp site near the center of the state; \$100,000 would be for improvement of the facilities of Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs, and erection of the first permanent unit on the proposed new camp site; and \$75,000 would be for a site for the new Baptist Building, in or near Little Rock.

The board voted to send its executive secretary, S. A. Whitlow, to the Baptist World Alliance in Rio de Janeiro next June.