

September 3, 1959

Preaching, Teaching
Build New Churches

NASHVILLE--(BP)--New churches are built around good preaching, good teaching, and an incentive to reach great goals, the keynote speaker at the Conference on Associational Activities here reported.

E. W. Westmoreland, Oklahoma City, secretary of the department of religious education for Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, delivered the keynote address to over 350 associational superintendents of missions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Conference on Associational Activities was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Associational missions leaders were special guests of the board for a four-day period. It was the first such conference ever held.

"Churches were built first of all by preaching," Westmoreland declared. First place must be given to preaching."

Then, he said, great churches rely on strong teaching organizations as the Sunday school and training organizations as the Training Union.

"The Sunday school has become the best agency we know for reaching people. The Sunday school is designed to reach the multitudes, and to teach the Bible not only to those who attend on Sunday morning but also to those who do not come," he continued.

"Our greatest problem and greatest weakness is at the point of the 2½ million Southern Baptists who do not care enough to take their church memberships with them when they move from one place to another," according to Westmoreland.

Harold E. Ingraham, Nashville, director of the board's service division, outlined the purposes of the conference. It was, he said, to build mutual acquaintance between the associational missionaries and Sunday School Board personnel and to determine how the board can help the mission leaders.

The Southern Baptist Convention's movement to establish 30,000 new churches, missions, and preaching stations during a five-year period was another reason for calling the conference, Ingraham said.

Westmoreland's keynote address was directly related to this movement.

James L. Sullivan, Nashville, executive secretary of the board, said that the association of churches "is a tremendous unit in our Southern Baptist life."

One of the associational missionaries, H. L. McClanahan of Kennett, Mo., said, "If all the needs of the local churches are to be met, it must be through the association."

The association of churches is the unit in Southern Baptist life which is closest to the individual churches. It often follows county lines. There are 1111 associations in the 45 states in which there are Southern Baptist churches.

Invitations were sent to each of 680 associational missionaries to attend the conference. Not all associations have missions superintendents and some superintendents serve more than one association.

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Fieldhouse Ready

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn.--(BP)--The 1300 students expected at Carson-Newman College here will find a new, half-million dollar fieldhouse almost complete when they return for the 1959-60 school year. One of the first chapel services is scheduled to be held in the fieldhouse auditorium. Carson-Newman is a school of Tennessee Baptist Convention.

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Unspeakable Wedding
Performed By Pastor

GADSDEN, Ala.--(BP)--A preacher speechless at the wedding he is performing?

While this may happen occasionally when the parties being married, or the preacher, are deaf, under other circumstances it is a rare event. W. Albert Smith, pastor of East Gadsden Baptist Church here, recalls the event only too well.

"Because of recent throat surgery I was unable to talk, yet these dear friends wanted their pastor to perform the service," Smith relates.

"The procedure of the service was as follows: The introduction of the service, I had typed out on a card which I asked the 'best man' to read. This led up to the taking of vows.

"The marriage vows for each one I had typed out on separate cards, and at the proper time, instead of reading the vows, I asked each person to read his or her vow, with an indication that if each agreed, to say 'I do.'

"The ring service was performed by merely turning to the attendants for the rings, and without speaking I motioned for each to place the rings on the other's finger. This was done as smoothly as in any service I had ever performed," Pastor Smith continues.

"The conclusion of the ceremony I also had typed out, and asked the groom's attendant to read, closing with 'signed by W. Albert Smith, and my signature.' I then sat at my desk while a picture was made as I signed the marriage license," he concludes.

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Requests Prayers

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Christian Life Commission voted to join with other Southern Baptist Convention agencies in asking Southern Baptists to pray for peace. The prayer period will be during Russian Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's forthcoming visit to America.

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