

September 5, 1959

Clarifies Competition
Found In Pioneer Area

NASHVILLE--(BP)--When Southern Baptists conduct work in pioneer areas of the United States, "We are not competing with anyone except the devil. We are not out to hurt other conventions or other churches, simply to witness where there is a need."

Arthur B. Rutledge, Atlanta, director of missions division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, made this statement at a conference here.

He revealed that Southern Baptists now have some kind of work in every city in the U. S. with over a million population except Boston.

He compared the spreading of Southern Baptist work to the account in the book of Acts. "The difference is," he stated, "that today it is not persecution but industrial revolution that accounts for the scattering abroad of our people."

The address was before 450 associational superintendents of missions.

Rutledge pointed out that the chief reason for Baptists being in pioneer areas is the great population shift that has taken place in this country. Attracted by industrial jobs, moved by the military, or away in school, Southern Baptists have found themselves in new locations.

These people have begun missions or churches for several reasons, he pointed out. In some cities they found no Baptist churches. In others there were not enough Baptist churches. In some cases the local church program did not meet their needs, Rutledge said.

In isolated cases mistakes were made in locating churches, Rutledge admitted, but he added that in relation to the total work, these instances were few. "In most places the result has been increased activity and results on the part of existing churches."

He cited one church which had only 2 or 3 baptisms a year before Southern Baptists began work in the same city, but this year it has already had 20 baptisms.

Pioneer work is producing fruit rapidly, he said. In Ohio the work has grown from 19 churches in 1952 to 180 churches and 89 missions today. After five years the Southern Baptist church in Kenosha, Wis., now has the largest attendance of any Baptist church in the city. Pioneer states which now have 2500 churches have a goal of 4000 churches and 2500 missions by 1964.

The associational superintendents attended the first conference on Associational Activities, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Statistics help Baptists know if their programs are succeeding, and if their methods are working, but more important they help them know spiritual needs, J. P. Edmunds, the board's secretary of research and statistics, reported.

Working with the research and statistics department as a team are the church clerks and associational clerks. Much of the statistical information is acquired through the annual associational letters.

"You can help us," Edmunds told the associational missionaries, "by assisting in training church clerks in your association, showing them the value of records and how to properly keep them."

Summing up the work of his department, Edmunds said, "We count Southern Baptists, but we are more interested in---do Southern Baptists count?"

Cooperative Program
Passes \$11 Million

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Cooperative Program receipts for Southern Baptist Convention agency work passed the \$11 million mark during August, Convention Treasurer Porter Routh announced here.

Income of \$1,456,547 through the Cooperative Program brought the total for 1959 to date to \$11,199,641.

The Cooperative Program is an undesignated plan of giving support to work of state Baptist as well as Southern Baptist Convention agencies. Money is shared by the agencies on a per centage scale voted by Baptists themselves each year.

During August, total designations received were \$148,019 bringing the total for the first eight months of the year to \$9,825,330. The total monies received in August were \$1,604,566 bringing the combined figure for January-August to \$21,024,971.

Receipts for August, 1959, were slightly ahead of those for August, 1958, when combined total received was \$1,600,313.

Gifts both through the Cooperative Program and in special designations are running ahead of a comparative eight-month period a year ago. Cooperative Program receipts are up 8.08 per cent and designations up 12.83 per cent.

Total income from both means of giving stood at \$19,070,658 after August, 1958, meaning that combined gifts in 1959 have risen 10.25 per cent.

Figures announced here do not represent total contributions to churches by more than 9 million Southern Baptists. Funds kept by local churches and by state Baptist organizations are not included in Routh's totals.

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C O R R E C T I O N

In Baptist Press copy of September 4, story captioned: Sunday School Board To File Labor Brief, please make the following correction in paragraph eight.

"An effort a few weeks ago to organize a group of Methodist Publishing House employees in Nashville for Teamster representation was defeated in an employee election. Union efforts are continuing among Methodist employees, however."
(The assistant director's poor handwriting made the first version come out "counting" rather than "continuing.")

Thank you.

THE BAPTIST PRESS, NASHVILLE OFFICE

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Paul A. Wieland Dies;
Leader In Tennessee

MEMPHIS--(BP)--Dr. Paul A. Wieland, 56, of Trenton, Tenn., died at Baptist Hospital in Memphis. He had been in ill health for several years.

Dr. Wieland had been president of the hospital's board of trustees since 1954 and earlier served as chairman of the executive committee of that body.

He was a member of the board of trustees of Union University and a member of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He formerly served as chairman of the Tennessee Baptist Hospital Commission and was for many years a member of the executive board of Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Dr. Wieland was born in Louisville, Ky., and attended school there. He received a master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

He held pastorates in Ghent, Ky., and Bolivar, Tenn., before coming to Trenton as pastor of the First Baptist Church in 1942. He was named pastor emeritus two years ago.

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Golden Gate Classes
Begin At New Site

MILL VALLEY, Calif.--(BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here has opened its doors for classes on its new 126-acre campus at Strawberry Point.

Kyle M. Yates, Jr., associate professor of Old Testament and Biblical archaeology, delivered the academic address at the convocation service marking the opening of the seminary's 16th session. President Harold K. Graves headed the formal academic procession and presided at the program.

Dr. Yates' address was entitled "Toward an Understanding of the Hebrew Concept of Miracle."

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Missouri Baptists
Going To The Fair

SEDALIA, Mo.--(BP)--Missouri Baptists are going to the fair.

Since 1956, Missouri Baptist Convention has been having an exhibit at the Missouri State Fair here.

This year, the exhibit consisted of colorful giant posters of the Baptist children's home, home for aged, the three Missouri Baptist colleges, and two denominational hospitals.

Literature, Bibles, and a small book store were a part of the display. The occasion this year was the convention's 125th anniversary.

Those who visited the exhibit received large shopping bags. They could select any tracts or free literature they wanted. A sign above the exhibit read, "Missouri Baptists, Dedicated to Missouri's Spiritual Welfare."

In addition the exhibit is set up at three other Missouri fairs---the Ozark Empire Fair at Springfield, North Central Missouri Fair at Trenton, and Northwest Missouri Fair at Bethany. Combined attendance at the state fair and three regional fairs is 700,000.

Several local fairs are furnished literature but local Baptists set up their own exhibits.

Lloyd W. Collins of Jefferson City, from the Baptist office of promotion and publicity, supervises the exhibits.

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California Surveyors
Request More Time

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--The survey committee of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California will request an extension of time before presenting its recommendations to the convention.

Committee members said they have not had sufficient time to study the advice of a professional management consultant firm employed to assist the survey of California Southern Baptist work.

Booz, Allen, and Hamilton of Chicago, the same firm used by numerous Baptist groups, was called in to assist the California convention.

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California Agency
Moves To New Office

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--The Baptist Foundation, an agency of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, moved into its new quarters here recently.

The convention's board of directors approved the purchase of a \$70,000 building and the use of over \$45,000 to remodel and furnish the offices.

Julian L. Stenstrom is executive secretary of the foundation.

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