

September 24, 1959

Illinois Cooks Up
Recipe For Expansion

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--The recipe for Baptist expansion in Illinois includes a church bond plan in which the state Baptist association joins with local churches and a bond agency to help churches erect new buildings.

Since the three-way arrangement went into effect in April, 1956, about \$3-1/3 million in church bonds has been issued by 76 Baptist churches in the state, Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, said here.

This same plan was adopted later in three other "Great Lakes States" by Southern Baptist groups. Since Aug. 1, 1956, 14 churches in Ohio have issued \$409,600 in church bonds. Michigan, whose contract went into force only last Mar. 1, has 15 churches with bond issues topping \$600,000 total.

A Southern Baptist church in Indiana has applied to issue \$30,000 in bonds.

Broadway Plan of Houston, Tex., takes care of legal details involved in getting bonds validated and printed and payment schedule arranged. The state conventions or associations help guarantee bonds issued by churches in their states against default.

Having the backing of the association or convention, a church can sell its bonds faster and easier. Without the bond plan, some churches because of their size and newness would have nowhere to borrow money. Commercial lenders shy from making direct loans to them.

The church is primarily responsible for selling the bonds, and contributes 3 per cent of the issue in bonds to the state's guaranty fund.

Taylor gave an unqualified "Yes" when asked if the plan is succeeding. Since last New Year's Day, sales of church bonds, guaranteed by Illinois Association, have averaged \$6555 per week.

Banks have taken notice of the bonds. "For several months two banks have been purchasing \$1500 in bonds for every issue irrespective of where the church is located --- just so long as the guarantee of Illinois Baptist State Association is behind these bonds," Taylor added.

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Baptist Airman Helped
Pilot Khrushchev Plane

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The American Air Force Pilot who helped fly Russian Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev to the United States is a Baptist layman, who is true to his Christian convictions.

Capt. Harold Renegar, 35, a native of Fort Worth, Tex., is an active member of the Temple Hills Baptist Church here.

His pastor, James Robert Suttie, says of him, "Harold is a fine example of the Christian manhood developed by our Baptist churches and schools. While a student at Baylor University he sang bass in the male quartet and travelled representing the school in churches and at conventions.

"Since he speaks the Russian language we should pray that God will use him as a witness for Jesus Christ".

Capt. Renegar was converted at the age of nine in the Evans Ave. Baptist Church, Fort Worth, under the ministry of Ramsey Pollard, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who was pastor at Fort Worth then.

He met his wife, Lynn, a graduate of Louisiana State University, at the Southwest Louisiana Baptist Encampment, Dry Creek, La. They have three children.

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2825 Churches, 5632
New Missions Reported

CHARLOTTE, N. C.--(BP)--Southern Baptists thus far have established 2825 new churches and formed 5632 new missions during their 30,000 Movement, the director of the movement announced here.

C. C. Warren, former president of the Convention in whose 1956 presidential address the 30,000 challenge was sounded, gave the new totals.

Totals are for July 1, but complete replies from around the Convention for that date have only recently been received.

The 30,000 Movement has a goal of establishing at least 10,000 new churches and 20,000 new missions and preaching stations through the year 1964. It is a part of Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The greatest number of new churches, 205, have been founded in Texas. Second place state is California, with 179 new churches. Third and fourth states in order are Florida and Illinois.

California has initiated the largest number of new missions, 368. It is closely followed by Illinois and Texas, with 365 each.

New churches on foreign mission fields total 979 and new missions there, 2236.

The state by state rundown, listing new churches first and new missions next:

Alabama, 101-130; Alaska, 13-25; Arizona, 47-126; Arkansas, 52-78; California, 179-368; Colorado, 43-105; District of Columbia, 6-3; Florida, 133-156; Georgia, 76-84; Illinois, 124-365.

Indiana, 1-6; Kentucky, 81-206; Kansas, 19-33; Louisiana, 73-84; Maryland, 25-79; Michigan, 40-64; Missouri, 61-219; Mississippi, 64-52; New Mexico, 31-92; North Carolina, 108-95; Ohio, 95-151; Oklahoma, 58-141.

Oregon-Washington, 39-70; South Carolina, 43-95; Tennessee, 82-152; Texas, 205-365; Virginia, 47-52, and foreign fields, 979-2236.

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Eagle Eyrie Registers
5253 In Assemblies

LYNCHBURG, Va.--(BP)--Total registration for the summer season at Eagle Eyrie, Virginia Baptist encampment near here, was 5253.

Training Union assemblies enrolled the greatest number--2497. Next came Sunday school assemblies with 1075.

During the assemblies, there were six professions of faith, 117 commitments to church-related vocations, and 139 dedications and rededications to Christian service.

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