

November 7, 1959

Midwestern Hosts
Missouri Messengers

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here played host at an open house for 400 messengers attending the annual Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City.

Highlight of the occasion was a guided tour conducted by the faculty, around the 216-acre campus and through the four recently-completed buildings.

These buildings include the administration building, the auditorium, and the library--all arranged around an enclosed grass court--and a classroom building a few yards away.

Many of the visitors remarked how much they were impressed by the seminary's site on a hillside overlooking tree-studded Missouri River bluffs.

The motif of seminary construction is that of rugged, weathered limestone broken by scattered sections of petite blue mosaic tile.

Refreshments were served to the visiting messengers in the library reading room at the conclusion of the tours.

Midwestern, Southern Baptists' newest seminary, is now in its second year of providing theological training. Enrolment for this semester stands at 275, including students from 27 states and two foreign countries.

During the past summer \$900,000 of buildings were erected on Midwestern's permanent campus at 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway here. Classes began Sept. 15.

-30-

Circular Building
For American Offices

VALLEY FORGE, Pa.--(BP)--Architect's plans have been approved for national headquarters of the American Baptist Convention here. Denominational agencies will occupy it in early 1962.

The project calls for a three-story circular office building, symbolic of the unity of purpose of the Convention's agencies, which the building will house. Supporting columns on the ground floor will define an arcade that is partially glass-enclosed for lobby, bookstore, and library use. A chapel rises above the structure from a central courtyard.

Fanning out beyond a segment of the office circle will be the one-level graphic arts building, set off by an open band of greenery. "American Baptists see in the radiating plan, with its printing plant moving out from the circular building, a statement of their missionary calling to carry the message of Christ into all the world," a Convention leader explained.

In another quadrant, a one-story cafeteria and conference center extends outward from the ground floor of the circle.

Costs of the circular building will be \$5½ million, including land, construction, and moving of equipment and personnel.

The graphic arts building will cost \$3 million, including land, construction, and moving of the printing plant and personnel from Philadelphia to Valley Forge.

-30-

Ex-Priest Baptizes
Another Ex-Priest

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.--(BP)--On a recent Sunday here, Pastor S. M. Corradi of Fruit Ave. Spanish Baptist Mission baptized a convert named Salmone Humberto Pavia. The interesting fact is that both the pastor and new convert are former priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

The new convert has expressed his conviction that the Lord has also called him to preach the gospel as he knows it now. He has already received several invitations to preach.

Born in Merida, Yucatan, in Mexico, convert Pavia studied at Merida and Puebla, Mexico, and at Montezuma Seminary, near Las Vegas, N. M.

He was one of the first Catholic students to come to Montezuma, after New Mexico Baptists were compelled for lack of funds to cease operation of the college and sell the property. He was at Montezuma from 1937 to 1941.

Pavia, after his Catholic ordination, taught at a seminary in Merida and was director of a diocesan school. He established some religious publications there. Later, at Mexico City he was a staff writer for "Buena Prensa," and spent considerable time in radio broadcasting. His last assignment was as a parish priest, or assistant at San Jose church in El Paso, Tex.

In making a profession of his faith in Christ as his personal Saviour, moments before his baptism, the new believer used some of the same expressions the mission pastor had used five years before as he told of the feelings of his heart.

Among other statements made in the days following his conversion and baptism, Pavia said: "Although I received invitations from people of several other denominations, and inquired about their points of view, I became convinced the Baptists teach the real message of salvation as it is in the Bible."

He said further: "I feel deeply sorry because I lost so many years of my life, deceiving myself and others. I was in good faith for a long time, but toward the last I began to realize many deceptions. I would like for this decision of mine to be a reason for many other priest friends of mine to make the same step. I am so happy now that I have trusted Jesus for the salvation of my soul."

Pastor S. M. Corradi was a priest in Brazil and Venezuela. A native of France, he has lived on the Island of Corsica, and in Italy.

-30-

Michigan To Launch
Program In Detroit

FLINT, Mich.--(BP)--The young Baptist State Convention of Michigan adopted a goal of 60 new churches and missions in 1960 at its session here. It also voted to launch a city missions program in Detroit on Jan. 1.

Assembled in the new 600-seat auditorium of Lincoln Park Baptist Church, the 420 messengers learned there are 80 churches and 24 missions co-operating with the state convention. A year ago, there were 63 churches and 16 missions.

Area Missionary Jay Brown will head the new city missions program in Detroit's 4-million population metropolitan area. The convention voted \$10,954 for this work next year.

Within a year or two, convention leaders said, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board expects to extend its "Operation Big Cities" into Detroit. Michigan convention hopes through its 1960 work to lay a foundation for the Home Mission Board operation.

The convention adopted a total distributable budget for 1960 amounting to \$127,764. Of this, 25 per cent will go to the Southern Baptist Convention through Cooperative

-more-

Program. Presently, 20 per cent of distributable funds go to the SBC.

Supplements from the Southern Baptist Sunday School and Home Mission Boards will amount to \$54,264, for a grand total 1960 budget in Michigan of \$182,029.

During the past year, co-operating churches reported 1,517 additions by baptism and 1,462 by letter. Total membership of the churches and missions now stands at 12,783.

Messengers elected Marion F. Boyd, Jr., pastor, Columbia Ave. Baptist Church, Pontiac, Mich., as president. They voted to meet with this Pontiac church for their next session, Nov. 1-2, 1960.

-30-

Paper In Michigan To Change Its Name

FLINT, Mich.--(BP)--The Baptist State Convention of Michigan passed an amendment to its constitution here, changing the name of its newspaper.

Now known as the Michigan Baptist Messenger, the paper will in the near future change its name to Michigan Baptist Advocate.

Editor Truett Smith of Detroit announced that the change became necessary because the name, Michigan Baptist Messenger, was already being used. It was learned that a Swedish Baptist group in the state having about 20 or 25 churches published a paper named Michigan Baptist Messenger.

-30-