

December 5, 1959

**Wife Of Carolina  
Baptist Leader Dies**

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--Mrs. Charles F. Sims of Columbia, wife of the state Baptist leader, died here in Baptist Hospital Dec. 2 of a heart attack.

Her husband, who is executive secretary of South Carolina Baptist Convention, and their three daughters survive.

Mrs. Sims had entered the hospital two days earlier after a heart attack. She was stricken again Dec. 2 and died. She had first had a heart attack last February, but had seemingly recovered.

Funeral services were conducted in Columbia Dec. 4, with burial at Greenville, S. C., near Mrs. Sims's birthplace.

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**Colorado Newest  
State To Survey**

(12-5-59)

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--The executive board of Colorado Baptist General Convention voted here to undertake a survey of the convention's work.

It appointed a committee of 18 to carry on the survey. Chairman is George Ray of Fort Morgan, Colo.

One of the committee's major undertakings will be adjusting the calendar of activities of Baptists in the six-state territory included in the convention.

Convention leaders pointed to the increasing number of meetings which create conflicts and which deprive pastors of time in their church communities.

It scheduled the annual state week of prayer and offering for state missions for July. This is perhaps the earliest date for state missions week of any state Baptist group among Southern Baptists.

Fall, when such weeks are customarily observed, presented too many calendar conflicts, it was reported.

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**Averett College Has  
Observed Centennial**

(12-5-59)

DANVILLE, Va.--(BP)--Averett College, a school for girls which is the oldest junior college in continuous existence in Virginia, marked its centennial here.

Founded in 1859 as Union Female College, the school went through several changes of name before acquiring the name "Averett" in 1917 in honor of two Danville citizens who were strong supporters of the school.

The college, part of the educational system of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, has an enrolment of over 300.

It celebrated its 100th year in style, by launching a \$350,000 development program for a dormitory and other building needs.

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Norwegians Have One  
Missionary Per 350

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--Southern Baptists would have 28,500 missionaries overseas instead of only 1350 if they matched the zeal of their Norwegian brethren, a retired missionary said here.

Miss Bertha Smith, who recently returned to America after 42 years of service in North China and Formosa, said Norwegian Baptists have one missionary for every 350 church members.

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South Carolina WMU  
Simplifies Structure

(12-5-59)

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--Moving to simplify its organizational structure, South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union (Southern Baptist) adopted two constitutional changes at its recent annual session here.

It eliminated its zonal organizations and restored the associational WMU as the principal link between the state WMU and local church societies. The 10 zones will continue to nominate state vice presidents.

A bit of inter-racial fellowship, rare for South Carolina Baptists nowadays, was seen at the session. A missionary education teacher at Benedict College (for Negroes) here, to whose salary the state WMU contributes \$2,000 annually, attended one of the meetings and brought several Negro friends with her. They were warmly received.

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Folks & facts.....

(12-5-59)

.....Kind Words, a publication of the Baptist Sunday School Board, was begun in 1866, and has continued in spite of poverty and transfer of publication responsibilities. Today it is a series of publications by the Board. (p. 1340, Encyclopedia of S. B.)

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Baptist School Head  
Junior College Leader

(12-5-59)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--A Baptist college president has been elected here as president of the Southern Association of Junior Colleges. He is W. E. Richardson of Bethel College, Hopkinsville, Ky. Bethel is operated by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission, was a guest of honor at the junior college session. Brantley is a former president of the association.

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Distler Cites Church  
College Teacher Need

(12-5-59)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--"Next to the parish ministry, the greatest work that our denominations now have to do is to find and employ the right teachers for our church-related colleges," a nationally-known educator declared here.

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Theodore Distler, Washington, representative there for the Association of American Colleges, made the statement. He addressed the Conference of Church-Related Colleges, meeting in connection with the session of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

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NOTE TO BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS:

Ballots for the "Top 10" stories of the year among Southern Baptists were mailed to you earlier this week. If you somehow fail to receive one, notify us IMMEDIATELY, for you are entitled to a vote and we want your vote. Ballots should be returned quickly in order that news story can go out by Jan. 1 on consensus choices.

BAPTIST PRESS, NASHVILLE OFFICE

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December 5, 1959

Player Tithes World  
Series Playing Share

By Leland Webb

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--When Don Demeter of the world champion Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team received his share of World Series pay, tithing it was as natural for him as playing center field.

"I've always felt it was a Christian's privilege, not his obligation, to tithe," explains the lanky center fielder. "It is a tenth you give back to the Lord for giving you ten-tenths."

Demeter, 24, who alternates with veteran Duke Snider in center field for the Dodgers, appeared in all six games of the World Series. Winning team player's share for the series was \$11,200.

He began tithing while working on his first job, employed by a furniture store when he was a junior in Capitol Hill High School here. Tithing was more of a habit for him, he confesses, until the last few years when he has awakened to the deeper meaning of stewardship.

"I don't feel it is money the Lord wants," he declares. "Now I feel he wants our time. Giving of your time goes much farther than what you give as a tithe. For you to spend as much time as possible in church work can do more than your money-- and it is worth more to you."

Demeter, who attends church as regularly as the playing schedule will permit during baseball season, keeps extra busy in the winter months. The soft-spoken athlete often addresses youth groups. He coaches a basketball team at Exchange Ave. Baptist Church, his home church here, and teaches a Sunday school class of 15-year-old Intermediate boys.

He hopes to instill the Christian stewardship idea in the boys he teaches. "If they can start tithing even as a habit, perhaps they will wake up some day, as I did, to the blessing it can be," he says.

A first-hand opportunity to see results of giving was afforded Demeter in the winter of 1956 when he made a baseball tour of Japan with the Dodgers.

"I saw in Japan what mission money can do," he recalls. "I have visited missionaries in their homes. When you give, you feel that in some small way you are helping these missionaries."

Testifies Demeter, "I have seen a lot of people who don't actually give a tithe, but they pay it some way, because something comes up that takes the money in place of that tithe."

To Demeter, his ability as a baseball player is a God-given talent. He is determined to use his career in sports to be a faithful Christian witness. "We need Christians in every phase of work--even baseball," he believes.

An offer of \$500 came to Demeter when he became a regular member of the big league team, simply for signing an endorsement for a cigarette company. The offer was tempting, he admits, because of the \$500.

But when he realized his picture might be published in sales promotion for the product, Demeter, who does not smoke, turned it down. "Some boy I had taught in Sunday School might have seen it," he reasons. If that happened, "what I had taught wouldn't be worth anything."

Demeter makes his permanent home here with his wife, Betty, and young son, Russ.