

December 16, 1959

Dr. R. G. Lee, Memphis
Minister, To Retire

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. Robert Greene Lee, the only three-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention in the last two decades, has announced his retirement as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church here. It is effective in February.

The decision was made public on the eve of his 32nd anniversary as Bellevue pastor Lee came to Bellevue Church from Citadel Square Baptist Church in Charleston, S. C., in 1927. He is 73 years old.

Perhaps best-known for his sermon, "Pay Day Some Day," which he has preached more than 600 times. Lee was converted and called to the ministry at the age of 12.

One day while plowing on the sharecropper family's South Carolina farm, young Bob stopped his mule, "Barney," and fell to his knees. There he gave his heart to Christ and almost immediately thereafter felt his call to the ministry.

The Southern Baptist Convention elected R. G. Lee as its president when the Convention met in his home city of Memphis in 1948. He presided at sessions in Oklahoma City, Chicago, and San Francisco. In addition, Lee has served four terms as president of Tennessee Baptist Convention.

During his three decades with Bellevue Church, it has increased from a membership of 1400 to more than 9300 members. The budget for the year approximates \$650,000. The membership figure places Bellevue second largest of churches affiliated with Southern Baptists. The church plant is valued at \$3-3/4 million.

Lee attended Furman University, Baptist school at Greenville, S. C., and received his Ph.D. degree from Chicago Law School. Three Baptist colleges--Furman, Union University at Jackson, Tenn., and Stetson University at DeLand, Fla.--have conferred honorary doctor of divinity degrees on him.

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Stetson Calls Alumnus
To Vice-Presidency

(12-16-59)

DE LAND, Fla.--(BP)--James W. Parrish, pastor, Riverside Baptist Church, Miami, Fla., has been appointed vice-president of Stetson University here.

Parrish will be in charge of church relations, development, and alumni affairs of the university when he assumes this newly created position shortly after Jan. 1.

The new vice-president has in recent years served as president of the Stetson alumni association, president of Florida Baptist Convention, and president of downtown Kiwanis Club of Miami, the largest club in Kiwanis.

Born Mar. 15, 1913, in Jacksonville, Fla., he was educated in public schools of Albany, Ga., at Stetson University, and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He earned his bachelor of arts degree at Stetson in 1936.

At Stetson, he was president of the student government association, president of Stetson's Baptist Student Union, president of the state Baptist Students and listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

He was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss., for four years before going to the Riverside Church, Miami, in 1949.

In 1948 he received the Junior Chamber of Commerce "citizenship award" at Laurel and was one of 10 nominees for the Mississippi state award.

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Coleman To Lead
Brotherhood Group

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Joseph R. Coleman, Tulsa, Okla., architect, has been selected to deliver the keynote address at the Brotherhood leadership conference June 23-29 at Ridgecrest, N. C., Baptist Assembly.

Coleman, a widely known Southern Baptist layman, will share the Brotherhood program with three other features.

Making an appearance will be the new Brotherhood organizational structure which reduces the number of major officers from 13 to seven. Brotherhoods will begin using the new pattern Oct. 1.

Two courses of instruction in Royal Ambassador leadership---basic and advanced---conferences on campcraft also will be offered.

Directing the Ridgecrest conference will be Lucien Coleman, Memphis, associate secretary of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new features also will be presented at the Brotherhood conference at Glorieta, N. M., Baptist assembly Aug. 18-24. David Mashburn, Memphis associate Brotherhood Commission secretary, is director.

Brotherhood Commission weeks coincide with Foreign Mission Board weeks at the two Convention-wide assemblies.

The young men's mission conference is also planned for Aug. 18-24 at Glorieta. Edward Hurt, Jr., Memphis, associate Brotherhood Commission secretary, is in charge. This conference is for young men seeking a deeper insight into missions, Hurt said.

Reservations to the three conferences may be made after Jan. 1 by writing E. A. Herron at Glorieta and Willard K. Weeks at Ridgecrest.

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Arizona College Votes
Increase In Tuition

(12-16-59)

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Grand Canyon College Trustees voted here to increase tuition effective during the 1960-61 academic year.

It will be increased from \$198 to \$250 per semester. Room rental will go up from \$90 to \$125 per semester and the fee per college credit hour will rise from \$16.50 to \$20 for part-time students.

E. N. Patterson, Phoenix, president of the Baptist college, said, "I have studied the rates of all the denominational schools and find that we are below the average in tuition fees."

He said the increase was a necessity to meet operating expenses. The college is operated by the Baptist General Convention of Arizona and is the only church-related senior college in the state.

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FROM ATLANTA OFFICE

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December 16, 1959

Jubilee Revival Plan Launched

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The Baptist Jubilee Revival, a new program of associational revival meetings, was launched at a meeting of Southern Baptist state secretaries of evangelism in Atlanta by the division of evangelism of the Home Mission Board.

"This program will greatly help in reaching the Jubilee baptismal goal of 4,100,000," said Leonard Sanderson, director of the division. "The program includes the methods which proved their value in the 1959 year of evangelism. The tried, tested, and proved methods plus some new discoveries are combined to provide this new associational program of evangelism," he added.

The program, an associational emphasis for each year during 1961, 1962, 1963, and 1964, would focus attention on the annual emphases of the Baptist Jubilee Advance. Revivals would be initiated through associations with associational officers forming the Baptist Jubilee Revival committee.

A plan of work for promoting a Baptist Jubilee Revival calls for a date to be set one year in advance, preferably through 1964, with the Baptist Jubilee Revival committee holding monthly meetings for preparation and progress reports eight months before the revival.

Associations will conduct evangelism clinics, "promote Televangelism and radio ministries," have an evangelistic rally before the revivals, and conduct fellowship clinics during the revivals.

Additional suggestions for participating churches call for following details of the Revival Plan Book, inauguration of a spiritual growth program on the closing day by the Training Union, and prompt reporting of results of the revival to the association.

Tracts would be provided on procedures for the committee by the evangelism division. Bulletin inserts, mats, promotion and publicity items are planned for special publicity for the Baptist Jubilee Revival. Emphasis would also be given to the Baptist Jubilee Revival plan by the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Churches completing the Baptist Jubilee Revival preparation suggestions and conducting the two week's revival will receive "certification of participation."

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Church Members To Pledge
Toward Winning 550,000

(12/16/59)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Nine million Southern Baptists will have an opportunity to pledge themselves to personally winning souls to Christ in 1960.

The goal of 550,000 baptisms for 1960 by Southern Baptists will be reached partially through soul-winning commitment of the laity, according to Leonard Sanderson, director of the Home Mission Board's division of evangelism.

One and a half million Southern Baptists are expected to formally commit themselves to winning souls on Soul-Winning Commitment Day early in January, 1960.

(more)

Evangelism leaders suggest that the churches place the commitment cards in the hands of every member before the commitment service, that pastors preach on personal soul-winning and lead in prayers of decision and dedication, that training classes in soul-winning techniques be started immediately, and that workers be given definite prospects to win.

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"Our Land For Christ
Aim Of States, Home Board

(12/16/59)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The new co-operative plan of state and home missions received strong emphasis during a two-day meeting of state executive secretaries and the Home Mission Board staff in Atlanta.

"We can no longer say that no other state will help us in our local state mission work," S. G. Posey of Fresno, California's executive secretary, said in the major speech of the meeting. "With the new agreements of state and home board co-operation, every state of the Southern Baptist Convention has a part in every other state by their gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong home mission offering."

Posey was referring to the new agreements signed by state boards and the Home Mission Board which place administrative leadership in the hands of each state for all missionaries, state and home board, in their area, but guiding principles of the work and the financial support are shared by the home board. Sixteen states have signed these agreements, and all others are expected to by the close of 1960.

"I am somewhat afraid for the future of America," Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the home board, told the state secretaries. "The disintegration of the home, the obscene literature, the growth of atheism and communistic philosophy, the increase in crime, gambling, and alcoholism, the growing power of Romanism, the prevalence of materialism, the faulty sense of stewardship, and the lack of doctrinal integrity of our people point to a dangerous weakening of American moral fiber.

"We must take America for Christ by winning the people, by making churches available where spiritual natures may be nourished, (and there are 24 million people out of reach of a Baptist church), and such a program will give America a Christian culture and establish a strong home base for foreign missions."

The secretaries expressed a concern for the non-resident membership of Southern Baptists during their discussion of goals for the next five years. They urged an emphasis and asked for the development of techniques which would lessen this trend.

A joint meeting with state secretaries of evangelism, also meeting in Atlanta, gave state leaders a chance to hear C. E. Autrey of Fort Worth, newly elected director of the division of evangelism of the Home Mission Board.

Emphasizing the goal to win 550,000 converts next year, Autrey said, "These goals spell out hard work. If we are to leap from 430,000 baptisms in a year to 550,000, it will be done by hard work. To fail to be realistic is to fail. To reach our goals will require wholehearted co-operation by all, and we must have great faith in God. God's people are limited only by the type or lack of faith."



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