

December 25, 1959

Southern Baptists Find Field In Pennsylvania

By Gainer E. Bryan, Jr.

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa.--(BP)--If anyone still feels that Southern Baptist missions and churches in the North constitute an "invasion," they should visit the Elizabethtown Baptist Mission here any Sunday morning or night.

Elizabethtown is a town of 7500 in southeastern Pennsylvania, 18 miles from Harrisburg, the state capital, and about 35 miles from the Maryland state line. The mission meets in the second-floor of the Odd Fellows hall.

There, amid the esoteric trappings of this fraternal order, eight adults and nine children have been gathering each Sunday morning and evening since Nov. 29. Before they began this Southern Baptist mission there was no Baptist church of any kind in Elizabethtown.

Four couples and their nine children compose the membership of the mission. The superintendent of Sunday school is Dr. Robert W. Saunderson. He is the medical director of the state hospital for crippled children at Elizabethtown.

Mrs. Saunderson is church clerk, general secretary of Sunday school, and nursery worker. The Saundersons have four children, and their eight-month-old twin girls constitute the nursery every Sunday morning and evening.

"We are Southern Baptists by conviction because we believe in their program," said Mrs. Saunderson. Both she and her husband were born in New York state. Members of another denomination, they became Southern Baptist when they joined Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Salisbury, Md. They moved to Elizabethtown from Salisbury only a few months ago.

Then there are Capt. Truett Smith, Mrs. Smith, and their two daughters. Capt. Smith is a veteran of 100 combat missions in Korea as an Air Force fighter pilot. He holds a responsible billet at nearby Olmstead Air Force Base. Among his achievements, he was project officer for the Lockheed F-104 Starfighter that currently holds three world's records--for speed, altitude and time decline.

The Smiths are Southern Baptists from Texas. He was named for the late, renowned Southern Baptist preacher, George W. Truett of Dallas. Capt. Smith is treasurer of the mission. Mrs. Smith is beginner-primary teacher.

The song leader for the mission is Richard Ensminger, a native of Elizabethtown, who became a Southern Baptist after marrying one. Stationed at Charleston, S. C., in the Navy, he met and married Dorothy, his wife, who was active in a Baptist church in that city. Dorothy is assistant treasurer and teacher of Juniors and intermediates. Dick is a student at Elizabethtown College.

Finally, the Borrys. H. Kenneth Borry, a Pennsylvanian formerly of another faith, serving as associate Sunday school superintendent, was first identified with a Southern Baptist church at Delmar, Del. This is a church associated with the Maryland Baptist Union Association.

Mrs. Borry attends the Baptist mission with him, although she is a member of a church of another faith. They have three children.

Finding no Baptist church in the community, these couples at first attended Valley Baptist Church at Highspire, Pa., 10 miles away, sponsored as a mission by Hereford, Md. However, it sprang up in the home of a displaced Southern Baptist before the Hereford church took it over. In fellowship with the Maryland Baptist Union Association, it now has about 50 members.

Recently, the Elizabethtown couples decided that their town needed a Baptist witness. So they started the mission under sponsorship of the Valley Church, with the help of K. Wiley Jarrell, associational missionary for the Northern Association of Maryland. They rented the Odd Fellows hall.

Aside from the surroundings, the spirit of the mission is such that one feels he is worshipping in a mature Southern Baptist Church. The four couples are carrying on an intensive visitation program and looking confidently to the day when the mission will be a church. Various supply pastors are doing the preaching.

A. B. Cash, Atlanta pioneer mission secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, visited Valley Church and its mission early in December and brought encouragement. He stated that the Home Mission Board would look favorably on backing a Harrisburg-area Southern Baptist mission program in the near future, using the Valley Church as a base.

The Home Mission Board would assist with the salary of a pastor-missionary to be jointly called by the Valley Church and the board.

This would tie in with a pattern already developing in Pennsylvania. A pastor-missionary, Joe Waltz, is already at work in the Pittsburgh area under the joint sponsorship of the Home Mission Board and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Another such worker, Padgett C. Cope, is serving the Philadelphia area at Levittown, Pa., with the backing of the Maryland Baptist Union Association and the Home Mission Board.

Call it an "invasion" if you wish, but don't overlook the spontaneous elements in it and the obvious blessing of the Holy Spirit.

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When Church Workers
Fail--The Reason Why

By A. Donald Bell
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When church workers fail at their jobs, it's usually because they can't get along with people.

Studies by Carnegie Technological Institute have shown that 90 per cent of all working people who fail in their life's vocation fail for the same reason.

Church workers may know the Gospel, have mastered new methods of leadership, and be dedicated to their church offices but yet be unable to get across to people in an acceptable way.

These workers, like so many of us, have developed the fine art of "putting our feet in our mouths!"

How can church workers learn to get along with people and thus become more successful in their church offices? They can do it by studying the way Jesus dealt with people during his earthly ministry.

Jesus did not browbeat his hearers. Instead time after time he won them by the method with which he appealed to them.

For example, Jesus justified an embarrassed woman. He did this before the sophisticated guests in the home of Simon, the Pharisee. (Luke 19:10)

Again, Jesus asked for something for himself--a drink of water--and thus elevated the woman with whom he was talking. Also, with her, as with others, he began where her life and interests were. (John 4:7)

Christ dealt with one person in particular by letting the person decide. In the case of the rich young ruler, Jesus led him to see the facts, but neither coerced nor persuaded. (Luke 18:18-26)

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From studying the way Jesus worked with people, we have learned certain rules of human relations. This art of getting along with people forms a part of the field of "applied psychology."

Psychology offers another source of assistance to a church worker who wants to improve his dealings with people.

Psychologists have found that most people respond to suggestion better than they do to force or to arguments. A nationally-read columnist, Dr. George W. Crane, suggests that the average person is very suggestible and that "sales resistance" and inhibiting ideas are not so likely to be set off by suggestion.

On the other hand, resistance and contrary ideas will result from coercion.

In other words, a wise Sunday school superintendent knows that scolding a general assembly for poor attendance does not improve attendance. He finds that challenging and encouraging are usually better tools.

Good salesmanship provides a third avenue of help to the church worker striving to have better dealings with other people. A good salesman (1) has personal experience with his own product, (2) is honest in all relationships, (3) loves his product and is sold on it himself, and (4) represents this product to the world by being the best trade-mark of it.

Just as the salesman learns the right approach to reach a certain customer with his product, so the Christian worker must understand the person with whom he deals and must demonstrate knowledge of the Gospel, faithful church attendance, and a Christ-like life if he is to reach the person.

Every Christian, as a part of his stewardship, has an obligation to improve his art of getting along with others. Only as he improves can he really be a "channel of blessings!"

THEO SOMMERKAMP, assistant director

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December 25, 1959

Colorado Calls Dabney
To Associate's Post

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--C. A. Dabney, pastor of Truett Memorial Baptist Church, Denver, Colo., has been elected superintendent of stewardship and missions and assistant to the executive secretary of Colorado Baptist General Convention.

He came to Truett Memorial Baptist Church Aug. 24, 1958.

Commenting on Dabney's election, Executive Secretary Willis J. Ray of Denver said:

"Since he has been with Truett Memorial Church, it has encountered unusual growth. The debt has been greatly reduced. Its new building has been filled and it has adopted a budget of over \$75,000. It has 600 members, 95 of them coming since Sept. 1.

"The executive committee hesitated to call such a valuable pastor from this growing church, but the denomination needs successful pastors to lead in missions, stewardship, and church financing."

Connie A. Dabney is a native of South Carolina, and a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S. C., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has held pastorates in South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, and Illinois. For eight years he was pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., before coming to Denver.

Mrs. Dabney is the former Midred Shealey of Spartanburg, S. C., and has a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary.

The post of superintendent of stewardship and missions was vacated Sept. 1 by the resignation of Cecil Pearson, who returned to the pastorate of the First Southern Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif.

Dabney will serve as assistant to the executive secretary, and promote the Forward Program of Church Finance, designed to aid churches in pledging their budgets.

He will begin his work with the convention Feb. 1.

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Specialized Chaplaincy
Subject Of Conference

(12-25-59)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Southern Baptist seminary professors and members of the chaplains commission studied opportunities of the civilian chaplaincy in American life recently at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The professors, teachers in the field of pastoral care in Southern Baptist seminaries, met with the chaplains commission. The hospital, institutional, and industrial chaplaincy were the primary interest and concern, according to Alfred Carpenter of Atlanta, director of the chaplains division, Home Mission Board.

"The results of this conference are most gratifying and encouraging," Carpenter said. "The seminaries are giving our ministers the highest type of training for this specialized ministry. The standards and qualifications set by our seminaries and other Baptist institutions training men for these fields of the chaplaincy are equal to that required by other denominations of their ministers, and in many cases much superior."

The history and work of the chaplains commission since its beginning in 1941 was presented, as was the work of the seminaries in the area of the chaplaincy. Present opportunities and the future program of the chaplaincy were discussed, as were standard and qualifications for ministers entering the work of the civilian chaplaincy.

Co-ordination of procedures and methods in implementing the chaplaincy program ---hospital, institutional, and industrial---with the seminaries were agreed upon.

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Representing the seminaries were Wayne Oates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Richard K. Young of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C.; J. Lyn Elder of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.; John W. Drakeford and Franklin M. Segler of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and Harold L. Rutledge of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La.

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Invitations For 1965
Convention Accepted

(12-25-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--For most people, 1965 is a long way off, but Southern Baptist Convention leaders are already considering possible sites for their annual Convention session in that year.

According to John H. Williams of Nashville, in charge of Convention arrangements for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, cities and Baptist groups interested in extending an invitation for 1965 should do so right away.

The 1960 session of the Convention, meeting in May at Miami Beach, Fla., will choose the 1965 site. However, invitations must be considered well ahead to be sure cities are eligible from the standpoint of auditorium size, hotel space, and nearness of hotels and auditorium.

Sites for 1961, 1962, 1963, and 1964 are already designated by Convention action--- St. Louis, San Francisco, Kansas City, and Atlantic City, N. J., in that order.

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