

FROM ATLANTA OFFICE

WALKER L. KNIGHT, regional editor  
161 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 3, Georgia  
Telephone: JACKSON 3-2593

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### 1960's Pose Decade Of Danger, Destiny

ATLANTA, Ga.---(BP)--Southern Baptists in 1959 have experienced their "best year in world-wide missionary labors" but enter in 1960 a decade that is "dangerous" and that "could be a decade of destiny."

Speaking here to 6500 Baptist Training Union conventioners, Baker James Cauthen of Richmond, Va., gave them three methods by which they could help shape the future of Baptist witness around the world.

Cauthen is executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. The board in 1959 appointed 144 new missionaries, more than in any one year in its history. This brought the total number of active missionaries overseas to 1382.

The board also had at its disposal a budget of \$16 million, also the greatest ever. It has missionaries under appointment in 44 countries.

The three challenges Cauthen gave to Training Union leaders from virtually every state in the nation were:

1. "Use your creative imagination to harness the prayer potential of Southern Baptists for world missions."
2. Recognize the place of stewardship. Conduct Training Union programs on the church budget, and on the Cooperative Program, the financial plan of Southern Baptists for supporting missions, education, and benevolence at home and abroad.
3. Offer to serve personally on a foreign mission field if "the Lord calls you to this service."

Cauthen told of Thailand in southeast Asia where only one person in 1200 is a Christian, and of another area of 400,000 population in the Far East where there is no Christian denomination to "tell about Jesus."

Earlier, the conventioners set goals of establishing 1866 new Training Unions in churches which do not have them. They set a goal of 230,752 new members, both of which they hope to reach in 1960.

Maines Rawls, Nashville, director of associational Training Union work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, said the Arizona state Baptist convention is the only one in which all affiliated churches have Training Unions.

There are 193 affiliated churches in the area of that regional group, with churches in Arizona, Utah, Idaho, and southern Nevada.

Of the 7740 Southern Baptist churches (from a total 31,500) which have no Training Union, almost 6000 are open country churches, according to J. P. Edmunds, director of research and statistics for the Sunday School Board.

"Most of the churches without Training Unions are small churches. Could this be a major reason why they are small churches?" he inquired.

The three-day Training Union Convention was sponsored by the Sunday School Board.

Laziness 'Besetting  
Sin' Among Baptists

12/31/59

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Southern Baptists are in danger of taking it "too easy" and being spectators rather than participants in Christianity, a layman and a pastor stated here.

Addressing 6500 attending a Baptist Training Union Convention, Ramsey Pollard, Knoxville, Tenn., minister who is Southern Baptist Convention president, said:

"The besetting sin of Southern Baptists today is the sin of taking it easy, getting to be fat and lazy."

A few hours later, layman evangelist Howard E. Butt, Jr., of Corpus Christi, Tex., added this note:

"Spectatoritis is the blight of our religion today."

The 6500 in attendance here came from all parts of the nation to the first Training Union Convention held in 19 years. The convention was inspirational and educational, with no authority to transact business.

The convention was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, under direction of J. E. Lambdin, Nashville, secretary of the board's Training Union department.

Sixteen-year-old Chris White of Hartwell, Ga., proved the best "sword drill" contestant, finding Bible passages more quickly and more often than champions from five other states. In winning, he became an unofficial national champion among Southern Baptists.

A pretty college student from West Palm Beach, Fla., Miss Connie Leigh Berry, accomplished the same feat in the "better speakers' tournament," in which contestants speak on a religious or moral theme and are adjudged.

Pollard, only a few days back in America from a visit to Baptists in Korea and Japan, said that Training Union receives a strong emphasis in Broadway Baptist Church of Knoxville, where he is pastor. "Every member of a church family should be in Training Union every Sunday night," he said.

Butt, vice-president of a chain of supermarkets in south Texas and a millionaire who pays his own expenses at Baptist speaking engagements, commented:

"When a person's religion consists in coming to a service and listening to someone else perform, that person's religion is paralyzed." He too lauded Training Union because it requires active participation from its members.

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## Note To Baptist Editors:

Registration at the Training Union Convention approximated 6500. Because some of the stories were written early, attendance was based either on the goal or on early registration announcements. Figures in Baptist Press stories from the convention should be changed to 6500 if otherwise.

Baptist Press

Atlanta Meeting  
Honors Lambdin

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Training Union Convention, dedicated to a theme of "training in church membership," closed its sessions with tributes of appreciation to its retiring secretary and a welcome to his successor.

The convention honored J. E. Lambdin, secretary for 30 years, by standing in appreciation after tributes from James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board. Ramsey Pollard, president of the Southern Baptist Convention later added his words of appreciation.

Lambdin was presented with a check for \$1,287 from special offerings taken last summer at the Training Union weeks at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist assemblies. Mrs. Lambdin, editor of Intermediate lesson material for Training Union, also retired with the close of the year.

The convention welcomed Philip B. Harris, formerly professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who succeeded to the secretaryship with Lambdin's retirement.

The convention registered 7306 messengers with 4690 of these from Georgia. Thirty states and the District of Columbia, plus Argentina and Japan, were represented.

The convention's closing speaker was W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, who said the Training Union emphasis on teaching and training in church membership is essential. "The loss of our church members to other faiths and other sects is appalling," he said, adding "all up and down the religious highway we find the derelicts of our Baptist churches."

Calling for greater commitment and for more doctrinal training, Criswell said Southern Baptists "have a great message, a great heritage and what we need is conviction, determination and the love to preach it to our people."

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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## Fillers on the 30,000

(Quotes about the 30,000 Movement gleaned from the correspondence of C. C. Warren, director of the movement.)

"Our goal for 1959 in the 30,000 Movement was 99. Our total through the month of November was 104 with one month to go."

Bruce Maples, associate executive secretary,  
Missouri

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"This church was started as a mission six years ago. We have organized two missions and a Sunday school at the convalescent home. Our church has not been financially able to pay the bills of these two missions; we do not have enough (money) to carry the full program of our church. However, our church did not stop at organizing missions due to our financial weakness. No church should!"

D. E. Lucas, pastor, First Baptist Church  
Berlin, Maryland

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"No mission should be overlooked by a church because the church does not have everything ideally. Our people feel a sense of maturing, Christian family life since they can claim mission children."

D. E. Lucas, pastor (above)

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"Our missions were started without normal means, such as plenty of workers and money. It would have been better could we have had such. I believe we should not wait until everything is ideal before starting missions. Start when a mission is needed and use what you have."

D. E. Lucas, pastor (above)

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"A group of 11 baptized believers were organized into the Soung Dong Baptist Church one mile east of the city limits of Seoul, Korea on September 13, 1959. The people were thrilled as they were told about the 30,000 Movement when they realized that they were a part of this advance program. We are planning to organize other churches in Korea during this 30,000 program."

L. Parks Marler, Baptist Mission  
Headquarters, Seoul, Korea

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"In the past 18 months we have established four mission stations within a mile of our church. We are now thinking, praying, and planning to start our fifth mission. We already have the location spotted, and the need is tremendous. We will probably begin with a mission Sunday school and then work into a regular chapel where we will have preaching services, Sunday school, Training Union, mid-week prayer services — the same program we have in our other four chapels."

John Scott Trent, pastor, Norwood Baptist  
Church, Birmingham, Alabama (from an  
article written for the Sunday School  
Builder)