

FROM ATLANTA OFFICE
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Leaders Study Needs Of Rural Churches

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Southern Baptist leaders took a closer look at the needs of the convention's more than 23,000 rural churches when the Long Range Rural Committee met in Atlanta recently.

Goals and developments in rural church work were studied by representatives of Southern Baptist agencies, state executive secretaries, superintendents of missions, association missionaries, and rural pastors.

Twenty-five year goals were set by the committee in 1954 covering full-time, trained pastors, church property, community contribution, stewardship, co-operation with minority groups, and specialized courses in colleges and seminaries on rural work.

"These were broken into five-year goals and estimates indicate that many of these have been accomplished," according to M. Wendell Belew, secretary of the department of associational missions of the Home Mission Board. "Approximately 900 of the 1,100 associations are concerned with the development of the rural churches."

Goals through 1964 stress the following:

- 1) all rural churches achieving one half, or full time pastoral ministry, with not more than 3,000 half-time churches.
- 2) at least 6,000 churches enlarging building facilities.
- 3) at least 75 per cent operating with an annual budget.
- 4) every church having one revival and reporting baptisms each year.
- 5) 3,500 new churches and missions.
- 6) 8,000 pastors in some form of in-service training.
- 7) every association served by a missionary.

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Mercer President Calls For Higher Standards

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MACON, Ga.--(BP)--Rufus C. Harris, president-elect of Mercer University, said Mercer should raise "substantially" her requirements for admission and for "the level of performance required to remain after admission."

He also said the scale of Mercer faculty salaries must be raised, and that "inadequate compensation establishes the teachers as those who are actually subsidizing the education of students who pay low tuition charges."

The new Mercer president, who will assume his duties full-time in the early spring, spoke in Founders' Day ceremonies, commemorating the 127th anniversary of the University's founding. This was his first formal address at Mercer since he was named president in November.

Harris, speaking on education in general and Mercer in particular, said he wants the Baptist school "determined to operate an excellent, altogether superior liberal arts college aimed at genuinely high standards of performance."

Missionary Retires After 24 Years

NEW ORLEANS, La.--(BP)--Miss Gladys Keith, New Orleans, must retire after 24 years as superintendent of the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission here. After several months of illness, her physician has advised that she is permanently disabled.

A native of Kilmichael, Miss., Miss Keith went to help at the mission on the New Orleans riverfront in 1934 for room and board and five dollars a week. In 1936 she was appointed by the Home Mission Board as superintendent of the mission.

Speaking of the struggles of her early days at the mission Miss Keith refers to withdrawal of support by the church which had provided financial assistance upon the resignation of the former superintendent. "One of the women from the church came down and said, 'We will give you \$25 a month for groceries if you will stay and see if you can pull the work together.' I stayed. It was during that time that I had the whole amount of two dresses," said Miss Keith.

A new building was erected for Rachel Sims Mission in 1949; and largely under Miss Keith's leadership three other missions have been established on the river front, including Carver Center for Negroes. Miss Keith helped constitute a Baptist church for the people of the waterfront.

Miss Keith will continue to reside in New Orleans after her retirement which will be effective January 31.

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Baptists In Detroit, Fresno Expand Work

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Southern Baptists in Detroit, Mich., and Fresno, Calif., have launched city mission programs according to Fred B. Moseley, Atlanta, secretary of the city missions department of the Home Mission Board.

Detroit churches made the step from an area program, and Fresno churches move from an associational program.

Both cities qualified for this intensive program designed for metropolitan areas which requires a population of 100,000 and 20 constituted Southern Baptist churches or a half-million population with 10 Southern Baptist churches.

Both J. W. Brown, who served as area missionary in Detroit, and Byron F. Todd, who served as associational missionary in Fresno, will be city missions superintendents.

In the early years of Southern Baptist work in an area the churches are served by an area missionary under the pioneer missions department of the Home Mission Board.

A city missions program, often including work with juvenile delinquents and Jews, rescue missions, good will centers, mission centers, and homes for the aged, must be requested by leadership in the city and state and accepted as a challenge by the local churches. Such programs are jointly financed by the churches of the local association, the state convention, and the Home Mission Board.

This makes 76 city mission programs in operation by Southern Baptists across the country according to Moseley.

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New York Plans Churches,
Association, Spanish Work

1/18/60

NEW YORK, N. Y.--(BP)--An association of the 43 Southern Baptist churches and missions in this eastern seven-state area is planned for this year, according to Paul S. James of New York, director of Southern Baptist work in greater New York.

James also indicated that a number of the missions will become churches, other missions will be started, including work among Spanish speaking people in New York, and the first simultaneous revivals will be held this spring.

The seven state area includes Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut.

These are events expected to take place this year:

- 1) the chapel at Fortsmouth, N.H., will be constituted as a church with Gene Trawick as pastor.
- 2) the chapel at Levittown, Pa., will become a church with Padgett Cope as pastor.
- 3) the chapel at Florham Park, ^{N.Y.} will become a church.
- 4) a full-time pastor will be called at the Farmingdale church.
- 5) an association will be organized, with first fellowship meeting in fall.
- 6) missions in Hartford, Conn., Newburgh, N.Y., and Schenectady, N.Y. will become chapels of the Manhattan Baptist Church, where James is pastor.
- 7) work with Spanish-speaking people will be started in New York.
- 8) the first simultaneous revivals will be held in April.

These are the latest developments in the fast-growing work which began in New York city in 1957 and became the Manhattan church in 1958.

Elmer Sizemore of Georgia became area missionary and assistant to James during 1959. Sizemore works with all of the 43 churches and missions, while James concentrates on the Manhattan church and its five missions.

"By the close of 1960 we expect these five missions to be churches, and we will have organized five additional missions," James said.

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How-To-Do-It Survey
Filmstrip Released

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The filmstrip, Church Community Survey, which gives how-to-do-it information and results on taking surveys, has been released by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board of Atlanta.

To present techniques of the survey which have emerged through years of use by Southern Baptists in getting permanent family records and pinpointing mission needs in a community, city, or state, the filmstrip follows Billy Hargrove, Atlanta, secretary of the Board's department of survey.

The purpose of the Church Community Survey filmstrip is to assist churches, associations, and other groups in conducting their surveys. The filmstrip will be merchandised in Baptist Book Stores for \$3.50, but missionaries can make requests for free copies to the Home Mission Board.

"The script and black and white copies of the color pictures are printed in tract form so that each viewer may have his own copy of the how-to-do-it steps," said J. C. Durham, Jr., Atlanta, secretary of promotion.

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Seminary Students To Serve
As Missionary Pastors

ATLANTA, Ga.—(BP)—Students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary can now serve as missionary pastors due to an agreement between the seminary, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and the Home Mission Board.

"We believe that this arrangement, similar to the one which has been in effect with Midwestern Seminary at Kansas City, Mo., will help provide needed pastoral leadership in a growing area and, at the same time, utilize the talents of our developing young ministers," said Arthur Rutledge, Atlanta, director of the Home Mission Board's division of missions.

Qualifications set up by the three bodies for student mission pastors whose salaries are supplemented by the state and home boards included the following: endorsement by the seminary's supervisor of field work and the superintendent of associational or city missions, approved by the state convention and the Home Mission Board, and agreement to attend an orientation class, make a monthly report to all three agencies, and work the year around.

Students who meet the qualifications will serve in churches and missions which are not more than three years old, are approved by the local superintendent of associational or city missions, and participate in world missions through the Cooperative Program.

Three years is the maximum length of time that a student may be employed under the agreement, and all arrangements are subject to review and renewal annually, or until a church becomes self-supporting. Churches and missions to be served by student mission pastors agree to pay as much of the salary as possible.

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Editor Calls Closing
Schools A Disaster

ATLANTA, Ga.—(BP)—"Georgia's loss of her public school system would be the state's greatest disaster since Sherman's armies burned their way to the coast," John Hurt, Jr., of Atlanta, editor of the Christian Index, wrote in the current issue of the Georgia Baptist weekly.

Hurt was quoted by Atlanta radio stations and newspapers when he added his voice to that of a number of Baptist ministers in Atlanta who have spoken out for continued public education, even in the face of integration.

Court rulings have approved a plan of integration for the Atlanta school system, but Georgia laws will force the closing of the schools if they integrate.

"There will be nothing but loss should the schools close," Hurt wrote, "The emergency is at hand. Little is being done. A six-year-old knows to call the fire department when his home catches fire.

"Now with a greater emergency his elders stand idle with an occasional glance at the neighbors for help...."

"Close the schools, if close they must, but let the voice of the people be heard before daring to speak for them. Democracy demands as much...."

He also called for state leaders to make plain their plans, and he asked that the churches take a lead in seeking a solution and in asking God's guidance.

"Georgia has had its years in the wilderness. It is a time now for a marching forward to a better land or surrendering as cowards before the extremists," he said.

"Georgia cannot afford to lose its public school system."

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