

February 6, 1960

Write Modern, Fields
Advises Journalists

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--Write modern, Southern Baptist journalists were advised here by the director of public relations of the Convention's Executive Committee.

W. C. Fields of Nashville, who is also director of Baptist Press news service, said writers for Baptist periodicals should throw away such old cliches as "felt need," "the overall program," and "view with alarm."

They should also avoid introductions which are too long. "Many stories submitted really start in the third paragraph. The two introductory paragraphs could be cut out," Fields said.

He said some "ecclesiastical jargon" could also be tossed out.

"We live in a very charitable and forgiving environment," he told members of the Baptist Public Relations Association. "Baptist writers have been getting away with murder--what they murder is journalism."

One writer's fault he described was dealing "almost completely in generalities. 'We've heard a lot about why Johnny can't read'; we ought to know why Johnny Grown-up can't write," he commented.

Rather than only becoming "alarmed" with life, Baptist writers should reflect more of the joy of Christian living, Fields added.

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New Campus Directory
Coming From Printer

(2-6-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Information about Southern Baptist colleges and universities has been brought up-to-date and will be available in the Southern Baptist Campus Directory.

The second edition of the directory will come from the press about Feb. 15. The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here, producer of the campus directory, has received 3000 orders even before the issue has come from the printer.

The directory, costing \$1, contains information and pictures of the 71 colleges and schools operated by Southern Baptists. It may be ordered by writing the Education Commission at 161-8th Ave. No., Nashville.

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Russians Translating
2 Baptist Periodicals

(2-6-60)

LOS ANGELES, Calif.--(BP)--Two Southern Baptist publications, and perhaps even more, are being translated into Russian language by Baptists in that country.

The two known to be undergoing translation after reaching Moscow are the Arkansas Baptist and the Baptist Record, weekly publications of Arkansas and Mississippi Baptists respectively.

This was reported here by Larry Ward, executive secretary of Evangelical Press Association, Los Angeles, following a world tour which included a visit to the often-reported Moscow Baptist Church.

Ward said that Baptists in Russia must read these and other publications thoroughly, for they are very familiar with the doings of Baptists in America as reported by these periodicals.

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Record 1959 Baptisms
Reported By Churches

EDITORS: These statistics must ^{not} be released or quoted before February 16, 1960.

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A record number of converts was baptized by Southern Baptist churches during 1959, according to statistics for the year released here by the department of research and statistics, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Secretary J. P. Edmunds said that 429,063 baptisms were reported by the churches.

During the year, Southern Baptists also became the leader among denominations in Sunday school enrolment with a total of 7,276,502.

The value of property of Southern Baptist churches passed the two billion mark for the first time, reaching \$2,009,254,164.

The previous high in baptisms was in 1955 with over 416,000.

In total church membership, the Southern Baptist Convention in 1959 continued to rank second only to The Methodist Church among non-Roman Catholic bodies. The year's total was 9,485,276, a gain of 278,518.

The Methodist Church has reported membership of its churches of 9,815,459. Previously, Methodists were high in church school (Sunday school) enrolment but the 180,327 gain among Southern Baptists last year put the SBC ahead of Methodists' 7,154,254 enrolled.

The number of churches co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention gained from 31,498 to 31,906--1.3 per cent. Choir enrolment jumped 9.6 per cent to 682,477.

There are organized state Baptist conventions or associations in 28 of the 50 states co-operating with the Southern Convention, Edmunds reported. Southern Baptists have missions or churches in all states and the District of Columbia.

Brotherhood enrolment, including men and boys, increased 6.0 per cent, and reached a total of 617,268. Woman's Missionary Union advanced 4.3 per cent to an enrolment of 1,456,192.

The 31,906 churches are classified as follows: open country, 15,502; village, 4,447; town, 3,777; and city, 8,180. City churches reported the largest gain, with an increase of 432 churches. Village churches lost 99, due largely to a re-classification of location.

Total gifts reached an all-time high of \$453,338,720, a gain of almost \$34 million, or 8.0 per cent. Mission gifts increased 4.0 per cent to a new high of \$77,753,190. During the year nearly \$184 million was added to the value of church property, bringing church property value to over \$2 billion.

During the past decade, 1950-1959, Southern Baptist church membership increased 2,405,387, or 34 per cent.

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EDITORS: Please observe February 16, 1960 release date on above story.

SUMMARY OF 1959 STATISTICS
FOR
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Per cent</u> <u>Increase</u>
Churches	31,906	31,498	408	1.3
Baptisms	429,063	407,892	21,171	5.2
Membership	9,485,276	9,206,758	278,518	3.0
Sunday school enrolment	7,276,502	7,096,175	180,327	2.5
Vacation Bible school enrolment	2,910,258	2,908,157	2,101	.1
Training Union enrolment	2,608,110	2,503,920	104,190	4.2
Choir enrolment	682,477	622,694	59,783	9.6
W.M.U. enrolment	1,456,192	1,395,974	60,218	4.3
Total Brotherhood enrolment	617,263	582,497	34,766	6.0
Total gifts	\$ 453,338,720	\$ 419,619,438	\$ 33,719,282	8.0
Missions and benevolences	\$ 77,753,190	\$ 74,750,699	\$ 3,002,491	4.0
Total value of church property	\$2,009,254,164	\$1,825,474,318	\$183,779,846	10.1

Research and Statistics Department

Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

Please do not publish figures or use in any way prior to February 16, 1960.

Joliet Pastor New
Southland Organizer

NEW YORK, N.Y.--(BP)--An American Baptist Convention minister has been appointed to organize new congregations in new or underchurched housing areas of the Southland. Appointed to the newly-created position of church extension pastor in the South, effective Mar. 1, was William B. Hill, pastor of First Baptist Church, Joliet, Ill.

Lincoln B. Wadsworth, secretary of the division of church extension and edifice funds of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, announced the action following a meeting of the societies' board of managers in Mexico City, Mexico.

The appointment of Hill came as the result of numerous requests from American Baptists living in southern states. In appointing Hill, the home mission societies chose a man with personal and academic background in both North and South. A permanent pastor will be called to each new church as soon as it becomes well established.

Hill has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Joliet, since 1952. He served previously as pastor of the Columbia Baptist Church, Seattle, Wash., from 1940-42, and from 1945-49. He served as Army chaplain (1942-45) and saw extended service in the Pacific area. While stationed in Australia, he preached in churches of all denominations.

After the war, Hill returned to his church in Seattle. During the following three years he took his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Washington, while carrying on his pastoral duties. In 1949, he received a one-year leave of absence to complete his bachelor of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. In 1950, he was recalled to active duty as chaplain in the Air Force, serving 18 months in the United States before being sent to Wiesbaden, Germany, as Protestant base chaplain.

On his return from military service in 1952, Hill became pastor of the church in Joliet. In 1955, he led a group of American Baptists in a tour to the Baptist World Congress in London. Following the visit to the congress, the group toured eight European countries.

Hill spent his boyhood in the South. Two years of undergraduate study was done at Mars Hill, N. C., and one year at Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C. He also holds a bachelor of theology degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago.

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Citation Given Adams
By Methodist Group

(2-7-60)

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Nearly 700 church leaders of at least 12 denominations attended The Upper Room's 25th anniversary celebration here.

The occasion was a dinner at which the publication's annual citation for outstanding contributions to world Christian fellowship was presented to Theodore F. Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond.

Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance, was cited as a "devoted servant of the church universal."

The citation was presented by J. Manning Potts, Nashville, editor of The Upper Room.

The Upper Room is a devotional guide published in Nashville by the Methodist General Board of Evangelism in 30 languages. It has a circulation of more than 3½ million.

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Negro Ministerial
Education A Topic

(2-7-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Advisory Council on Southern Baptist Work with National Baptists will hold its meeting in Nashville Feb. 29-Mar.1.

Topics to be discussed by speakers include "The Basis of Our Concern for Those of Other Races," "Negro Ministerial Education in the South," and "Negro Ministerial Education from the Negro Perspective."

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