

December 3, 1960

Conference On Aging Program Has Baptists

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Three Southern Baptists are among planners and participants in the White House Conference on the Aging meeting in Washington, Jan. 9-12. Nine others are delegates.

Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission, helped to prepare the program used by the religion section of the conference. Valentine filled the vacancy left by his predecessor, Dr. A. C. Miller, now retired.

He also has acted as co-ordinator for Southern Baptists in selecting delegates to the many sections which will convene during the conference. About 2800 persons will attend the conference, government leaders predict.

The two participants, both in the religion section, will be Olin T. Binkley, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., and T. B. Maston, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Binkley will be discussion leader for the work group on the role of religion in the life of older people. Maston will have the same responsibility in a roundtable discussion on the role of the congregation in affecting attitudes toward older people.

Delegates to the conference from Southern Baptists, the agency they serve, and the section they will attend, are:

Leroy Ford, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, research in psychological and social sciences.

John T. Sisemore, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, employment security and retirement.

Joe W. Burton, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, family life and social services.

Clyde L. Davis, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, local community organizations.

Albert Mc Clellan, S B C Executive Committee, Nashville, population trends and social-economic implications.

Clifton J. Allen, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, religion.

James M. Sapp, S B C Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, national voluntary organizations.

Rabun L. Brantley, S B C Education Commission, Nashville, education.

Miss Ethalee Hamric, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, free time activities.

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Likes The Moon In The
Morning, Sun At Night

(12-3-60)

TAMPA, Fla.--(BP)--A Tampa Baptist church traded morning and evening by holding Training Union at 9:45 a.m. and Sunday School at 6:15 p.m.

The switch, for one Sunday only, was expected to produce a record 500 persons in Training Union at Manhattan Baptist Church here.

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Churches Take Pictures Of Their New Members

NASHVILLE--(BP)--If you join a church in Greenville, Miss.; Dallas, Tex.; Winston-Salem, N. C., or Decatur, Ga., better be wearing your Sunday best. You'll have your picture taken.

Churches in these four cities--and several other churches, too--take pictures of their new members to get to know them sooner.

First Baptist Church of Greenville (membership: 2800) began using photographs of its new members in the weekly bulletin in 1956, according to W. Perry Claxton, pastor. The church uses a Polaroid camera, operated by a member trained in photography.

"This next year, we plan to feature our active deacons by photographs and a brief life sketch," Claxton added.

"One of the most unique uses . . . is in connection with our kindergarten. We take a picture of each child on his birthday and mount it in a birthday folder. This is presented to the child so that he may take it home to his parents," the Greenville minister concluded.

At Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas (membership: 3500), the program was launched seven years ago. The photos of new members are pasted on the record card for each member in the church office.

C. F. Weekley, a church member, heads the photography and records committee of the church. He said the church uses a homemade portrait-type camera which cost about \$75. Persons who join the church Sunday morning have their pictures taken immediately afterward amid joking, "Where do I go to be fingerprinted?"

"We have tried to get pictures of present church members, and everything we have tried seems to fail," reported Weekley.

He estimated the cost--film, developing, and printing--to be about a dime for each new member's photograph. Of course, the photographer's time is donated.

"We are convinced that the photographs are a vital part of our church record system," declared Ben E. J. New, associate pastor at Park Cities Church.

Dick H. Hall, Jr., of First Baptist Church, Decatur (membership: 3400), said this church copied the idea from Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in adjoining Atlanta.

"Obviously, it can be very helpful to have a picture on the card of our Cardex file so that the name and the face can always be identified," according to Hall.

The pastor hopes that ultimately pictures of all church members will be available. The church uses a Minox, a tiny subminiature camera. Again the cost per person photographed is nearly 10 cents.

Each person photographed holds a slate on which his name appears. The church clerk at Decatur acts as photographer, with several assistants. Hall termed the response to this picture effort "excellent." He said, "All of our new members are glad to have their pictures made."

Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, (membership: 1400), initiated its program in 1959. Using a Speed Graphic camera, a woman leader in the church clicks the shutter. The pastor has a family folder on each church family, into which pictures are inserted.

Their pictures are taken immediately after new members join, or as a part of the pastor's Sunday instruction class for new members.

South Main Baptist Church, Houston (membership: 5400), dropped the practice, finding it difficult to get new members to remain after the service to have pictures taken. It used a Rolleiflex camera.

At least two other churches are known to have used the photo program--Ruhama Baptist Church of Birmingham and Belmont Heights Baptist Church of Nashville.

Designations Boom,
Cooperative Slows

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Cooperative Program receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention are running less than one-half of one per cent more than for 1959, despite an increase of more than 9 per cent in the minimum agency budget needs.

Convention Treasurer Porter Routh here said that \$1,237,465 received from states during November brought the 11-month total to \$15,571,601. At the same time a year ago, the income was \$15,564,723.

The 1960 budget to meet the operating and capital needs of all 20 Convention agencies is \$16,386,900. In 1959, it was \$15 million. This means one year ago, the S B C had already entered the advance stage of its Cooperative Program budget.

During this advance stage, which ends with the calendar year, all income goes solely to home and foreign missions. Foreign missions gets 75 per cent.

This year, through November, the S B C receipts were still about \$800,000 short of the gateway to the advance stage. Earlier Baker J. Cauthen, Richmond, executive secretary of the Convention's Foreign Mission Board, expressed confidence that the board would get the \$800,000 it needs from the advance stage.

If he is right, December would have to be a \$2 million month in Cooperative Program receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program contributions from churches would have to be at least \$6 million, since states keep about two-thirds (a Conventionwide average) of the funds.

Routh said a check for about \$310,000 in Cooperative Program receipts was en route to Nashville from Montgomery from Alabama Baptists. A. H. Reid, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention there, said he had hoped the check would reach Nashville before November books closed.

This, Routh said, brightens the picture.

In November, designated gifts amounted to \$158,163 bringing the year's total to date to \$11,367,290. This means designated gifts to S B C agencies (this includes the annual Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong Offerings) are up 10.9 per cent over 1959.

Several states which send large Cooperative Program amounts to the S B C were trailing their 1959 donations at this period. This included Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas. The combined amounts to have brought these states equal to their 1959 mark stood at \$ 300,000.

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Yale Alcohol Study
End Draws Comments

(12-3-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Baptist temperance leaders here had mixed feelings about the news from Yale University that it would discontinue sponsoring a center of alcohol studies.

A number of Southern Baptist pastors and agency leaders have attended the summer conferences, held by the center.

C. Aubrey Hearn, Nashville, in Training Union work with the Baptist Sunday School Board, attended the opening summer conference in 1943 but summer assembly engagements have prevented later attendance.

The author of two Baptist study course books on alcohol, Hearn said he found the studies at Yale University "very helpful." He said while the center took neither a "wet" nor "dry" position on drinking, temperance organizations had not given it unqualified endorsement.

The school of alcohol studies presented technical, factual material about drinking, he said. Representatives from the liquor trade, as well as from churches and temperance societies, attended these conferences.

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Hearn said he feared what the trend might be if the alcohol study program is taken over by a private foundation. "Liquor interests might endow it," he said.

In news releases about discontinuing the program after the 1961 summer course, Yale left open the possibility of it being taken up by a group not related to the college.

Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission, said "drys" have thought of the summer school of alcohol study as favoring drinking in moderation.

"We respected its program and scientific approach," he added, "but rejected its emphasis on moderation, holding instead to total abstinence."