

December 16, 1960

Baptists To Study
Heritage In Missions

ATLANTA--(BP)--How Southern Baptists became a major force in Christian world missions will be studied in the denomination's churches preceding the March week of prayer for home missions in 1961.

"Our Baptist Heritage in Missions," is theme for the series of books for 1961. It's developed in the story of Luther Rice, the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention, and in other stories of pioneer missionaries.

The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union sponsors study of the books which are published by the Home Mission Board and are graded by ages.

"A knowledge of the past activity helps the people decide the course of tomorrow's action and to plan for greater advances," said Davis C. Woolley of Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary of the Convention's Historical Commission.

The series of books on home missions subjects taught in Southern Baptist churches have an annual distribution of 325,000.

"The Dreamer Cometh", the book for adults, is the biography of Luther Rice, considered the father of Baptists' organization as a convention to promote Christian missions. Author of the book is William A. Carleton of Mill Valley, Calif., professor of church history at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Harold Dye of San Jose, Calif., a pastor and famed writer outside his own denomination, uses a composite of dedicated young people in "His To Command." Dye's book will be studied by young people.

"No Greater Heritage" is the story of Dan, a young boy in his early teens whose interest in journalism leads him to an assignment to "cover" Baptist history for his pastor with the local newspaper editor as critic. Written by A. B. Cothron of Nashville, Tenn., a typographer and book designer for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, "No Greater Heritage" will be studied by intermediates, a teen-age group.

Miss Elizabeth Provence, home missionary in New Orleans, La., drew on her 20 years of denominational work in Florida and her personal knowledge of Willie King to write "Sawgrass Missionary." The book, for ages nine through 12, juniors, is the story of king, a Choctaw Indian who was the first Southern Baptist missionary to the Seminole Indians in the Everglades. King's ministry is seen through the eyes of his young Indian friend, Johnny.

Blue Flower was the name the Indians gave to Miss Pauline Cammack, missionary to Pueblo Indians of New Mexico, and it is the title of the book for children from six to nine, primaries. "Blue Flower" is Miss Cammack's biography and seven-year-old Pueblo Pat's story. Author of the book is Mrs. Jacqueline Durham of Atlanta, editorial assistant for "Home Missions" magazine.

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China Refugees Join,
Lead Atlanta Church

(12-16-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Southern Baptist missions abroad has a dividend in leadership for a Baptist church in Atlanta.

Herman S. D. Yang and his wife were won to Christ by Baptist missionaries in China. They escaped from Communism, came to Atlanta where he is employed as an engineer, and immediately identified themselves with a Baptist church.

He was to be ordained a deacon in the Clairmont Hills Baptist Church Jan. 1.

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Mission Leaders Hope
For Good Receipts

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Executives of two Southern Baptist Convention mission agencies voiced hope for still more receipts through the advance stage of the Cooperative Program, which as of Dec. 13 stood at \$333,097.

Rogers M. Smith of Richmond, administrative associate of the S B C Foreign Mission Board, said, "The Foreign Mission Board should receive approximately \$800,000. This money is greatly needed in 1961. It will be used to help send out more missionaries and to put in their hands more and better tools to perform their ministries."

The Foreign Mission Board's 75 per cent share of advance income was \$249,822, a little more than one-fourth of their hoped for amount. The advance continued till Dec. 31 when the S B C budget enters a new year.

Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Convention's Home Mission Board, declared:

"The Home Mission Board rejoices that the advance section of the Cooperative Program was reached on Dec. 7. Even though this is later than usual, we hope and anticipate that the receipts may be especially helpful in implementing the enlarged and expanded mission programs . . . the Home Mission Board has counted on . . ."

The Cooperative Program is used to support state and worldwide work of Southern Baptists. The 1960 budget for the S B C national and worldwide ministry of 20 agencies was \$16,386,900. All convention agencies, including the mission boards, received a per centage share.

When this \$16,386,900 was received from the 28 state Baptist groups affiliated with the S B C, the Convention then entered its advance stage of the Cooperative Program. During this period money was going to mission agencies only, through the rest of the calendar and budget year.

The Home Mission Board's share of the income was \$83,274 as of Dec. 13. The pre-advance budget needs of the S B C were about \$1.3 million greater this year than in 1959.

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Baptisms Near 400,000
For '60 Autrey States

(12-16-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Southern Baptists will baptize nearly 400,000 during 1960, according to C. E. Autrey of Dallas, director of the division of evangelism of the Convention's Home Mission Board.

Autrey made the announcement in Atlanta to a meeting of the executive secretaries of the state conventions of the denomination. The state leaders were hearing reports of the work of the Home Mission Board.

"Our statistical office has placed the figure at 388,560," Autrey said, "but many states have hundreds unreported, and by the end of the year we should be knocking on the door of 400,000."

Fifty associations have not reported and estimates have been substituted. "This figure of 388,560 is not to be taken as the official report," Autrey said, "but it seldom varies significantly from this."

Last year the churches reported 429,963, the highest figure on record. Earlier reports had anticipated a decrease. Some estimates, according to Autrey, expected a drop of between one-third and one-fourth below last year.

These estimates, coming at a time of decreased student enrollment in seminaries and a slowing down of mission giving and growth in other work, had intensified the interest in the baptism figure.

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"Actually our baptism report is off much less than the decline of other phases of work and much less than some anticipated," Autrey said.

He did emphasize a percentage decline in an increase in baptisms. "In the last five years Southern Baptists have gained only nine per cent in over-all growth as against 20 per cent in the previous five years," he warned.

"We should not become pessimistic," Autrey said. "God doesn't respond to fear, but to faith." He then asked for improved public relations, more enlargement programs in Sunday schools, a return to techniques in evangelism, and a renewed emphasis on Baptist distinctives.

"We are not preaching enough doctrine," he warned. "Evangelism is not complete until we have grounded our people where they will not be blown off course by the slightest wind."

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Missouri Sets Terms
For Hospital Support

(12-16-60)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Unless certain conditions are met, Missouri Baptist Convention may sever its ties with a hospital in St. Louis.

The convention's executive board voted here to recommend ending all connections with Missouri Baptist Hospital if three conditions are not met by the hospital. The convention would vote on the matter next October.

Terms, as given by the board, were:

1. The hospital must "reject the Hill-Burton grant of monies" recently announced;
2. The hospital must "return the pledge of the Anheuser-Busch Foundation, or any other pledges or monies received from like interests";
3. The hospital must "agree to become a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention family of institutions."

The board's action was taken following recent announcement that the Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis had accepted a grant of \$662,351 from Hill-Burton funds. The grant was accomplished through a foundation, but according to the board's resolution, "It is evident that Missouri Baptist Hospital is the benefactor of this governmental grant."

The resolution further stated that the acceptance of the Hill-Burton grant "is in complete violation of the principle of separation of church and state, which we, as Missouri Baptists, have repeatedly enunciated. The executive board of the Missouri Baptist Convention is embarrassed that this institution with which we have had a working connection in the past would so callously disregard a sacred principle which Baptists generally have so strongly supported."

The board also took notice of recent news releases on the matter by stating that "the news releases relating to the hospital's acceptance of this governmental money might be interpreted by the public as indicating that the Missouri Baptist Convention was in agreement with and a party to this transaction. We, hereby, declare that neither the Missouri Baptist Convention nor its executive board had any knowledge of the hospital's application for government funds, and were not asked for advice regarding this proposal."

The Anheuser-Busch Foundation had pledged \$30,000 to the hospital. Anheuser-Busch is one of St. Louis' big breweries (Budweiser beer).

The government grant came through a separate private foundation set up for that purpose.

For many years, the Missouri Baptist Convention has had a working relationship with the St. Louis hospital. Since its beginning, the hospital has been operated by a self-perpetuating board of managers but the Missouri Baptist Convention has contributed each year in varying amounts toward the support of the hospital.

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Last October, the convention in its annual meeting in St. Louis adopted a recommendation of its executive board omitting Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City and Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis from sharing in convention funds for operating needs in 1961. At the same time, the convention voted to consider giving assistance in future capital needs of the hospitals.

The convention's action in regard to the operating needs of the hospitals was based on the fact that present-day hospitals can make their own way as far as operating needs are concerned.

The board in another action approved a proposed plan for the establishment of a rescue mission in St. Louis. Final action on the proposal will be taken next spring when the St. Louis Baptist Association will consider the proposal. It calls for the joint support of the St. Louis Association, the Missouri Baptist Convention, and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The board also took another step toward establishment of a Baptist college in St. Louis, and meeting capital needs of three existing colleges by appointing a steering committee to prepare for the statewide campaign.

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Sunday Closing Laws
Face Supreme Court

(12-16-60)

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Sunday closing laws are no different than other legislation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of workers, according to argument before the Supreme Court of the United States here.

The high court is reviewing four cases which challenge Sunday closing laws in three states -- Massachusetts, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Its decision in these cases could affect all Sunday laws, however, and even give Sunday a new legal status. It is expected that the nine justices will take two or three months to study the briefs and write their opinions.

Attorneys for the three states denied that Sunday closing laws constitute a violation of separation of church and state, despite the religious nature of such provisions originally. Even the attorneys for the appellants agreed that the states have a right under their police powers to require that business establishments observe a day of rest for both proprietors and employees.

When the Supreme Court last faced this issue more than 60 years ago it resolved it by accepting the argument that Sunday closing laws are basically civil rather than religious in nature, designed to provide a respite in the work of the community.

If this line of reasoning is continued by the court, it may be that a decision will be handed down upholding Sunday closing laws with the provision that exceptions can be made for those who observe another day for reasons of conscience.

The basic decision in the cases seems to have narrowed down to whether it is constitutional to require everyone to observe the same day of rest, insofar as possible, and to select Sunday as that day.

Appellants in the cases are the Crown Kasher Super Market of Springfield, Mass., and the supermarket chain "Two Guys from Harrison," of Harrison, N. J., which has appealed from rulings handed down in both Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) briefs were filed by the Retail Clerks' International Union (AFL-CIO), by the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists and by the American Jewish Congress. The labor union cited a variety of reasons ranging from double-headed baseball games to family picnics, as to why their 750,000 members want Sunday off. The other briefs said that undue economic loss was suffered by those who conscientiously observe Saturday, if in addition they are forced to close on Sunday.

During the arguments considerable discussion was exchanged between the attorneys and the justices. It was indicated that exemptions from certain legal requirements for conscientious objectors are not inherent Constitutional rights, but they are privileges granted by the Congress.

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The cases of Quakers and other pacifists were cited to illustrate the point. The privileges of conscientious objection have not been extended to certain fundamentalist Mormon groups, who believe in polygamy as morally and religiously justifiable.

The problem of Sunday closing laws has been made more complex in recent years by a hodge-podge of rulings and exceptions, leading to conflicting lower court decisions on the legal issues. It was such exceptions that led to the current cases before the court.

Also awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court is an appeal from South Carolina concerning a state law prohibiting the exhibition of movies on Sunday. Virginia toughened its "blue laws" earlier this year but there has been no appeal yet on them directed to the Supreme Court.

The knotty question now to be decided by the Supreme Court justices is: How far does religious liberty go in conferring a right to be exempt from Sunday laws, if they are otherwise within a state's power to enact?