

December 21, 1960

**Home Board Produces
Negro Work Filmstrip**

ATLANTA--(BP)--How Southern Baptists and National Baptists (Negroes) co-operate in mission work is told through a 50-frame filmstrip released by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Titled "Co-operating with National Baptists," the filmstrip develops its theme through a discussion of areas of co-operation, leadership training, and total missions program.

A department of work with National Baptists at the mission board leads 68 workers of both groups in joint mission efforts in 19 states.

These workers include state directors, teacher missionaries, and others in mission centers and related work. Leadership training, the main emphasis in National Baptist-Southern Baptist co-operation, receives a heavy emphasis in the filmstrip.

"Southern Baptist work with National Baptists through the Home Mission Board is permanent, comprehensive, and growing," according to Victor Glass of Atlanta, associate secretary of the department. "This work has been a part of Southern Baptist life since the founding of the Convention in 1845."

National and Southern Baptists co-operate in such areas as vacation Bible schools, simultaneous revivals, mission center work, extension classes, leadership training, Baptist student unions, and through Convention agencies.

The new filmstrip is sold through the book stores of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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**3 Schools Receive
Science Donations**

(12-21-60)

By the Baptist Press

At least three Southern Baptist-related schools have received donations from the National Science Foundation. They total about \$150,000, and are for summer institutes for high school teachers.

Largest single grant went to Stetson University, DeLand Fla. Its \$62,400 will enable 50 high school teachers of mathematics to perfect their skills. Stetson's institute opens next June 19 for eight weeks.

Furman University, Greenville, S. C., got \$44,700 to give summer training to 50 high school instructors in chemistry, physics, and biology.

35 teachers will be able to study at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, by virtue of a Foundation grant of \$42,400. Teachers of general science and mathematics are eligible to study next summer.

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Los Angeles Program
New Workers Chosen

LOS ANGELES--(BP)--New superintendents of Southern Baptist associational missions have been chosen for this vast metropolitan area.

They were elected by directors of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. A mission program formerly operated jointly by five associations of churches is being divided so there is a missionary for each association.

H. M. Leichty of Huntington Park, Calif., formerly served the San Fernando Valley, Crescent Bay, Long Beach-Harbor, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Valley Associations as city missionary.

Directors elected Leichty to superintend the work in San Fernando Valley Association which includes Glendale and North Hollywood.

Ed F. Harness of Torrance, Calif., will serve as superintendent of city missions for the Long Beach-Harbor Association of churches on a temporary basis. This includes the cities of Long Beach and Torrance.

Floyd B. Caldwell of Ventura will serve as city missionary for the Crescent Bay Association. This area embraces Hollywood and Santa Monica, Calif.

A pastor from Riverside, Calif., V. B. Breazeale, has been picked to serve the San Gabriel Valley Association. This includes Alhambra and Pasadena.

No superintendent has been selected for the Los Angeles Association. Joe Daniels, who has been education director for the combined five association group, will head the same program for Los Angeles Association.

There are about 20,000 Baptists in this metropolitan area, third largest city zone in the Nation.

The directors reported no action on election of an executive secretary-treasurer for the state convention. S. G. Posey of Fresno, present executive, was to retire Dec. 31.

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Michigan Makes Goal
Of Having 100 Churches

(12-21-60)

DETROIT--(BP)--Southern Baptists in Michigan have reached a long-awaited goal. The 100th affiliated church in the state has been organized.

Located in the eastern section of this city, New Hope Baptist Church came into being with 29 charter members and five converts awaiting baptism who will be listed as charter members.

The church started out as a mission in October, 1960, with 23 members. It will continue to meet in the Odd Fellows Hall which it occupied as a mission.

The mother church, Fellowship of Detroit, had used the lodge hall as its meeting place before Fellowship Church bought a building several miles away.

The sponsors felt that a witness was still needed in the former location. The rented Odd Fellows Hall, it was discovered, has been used for organizing 37 churches of various faiths.

More than 125 persons attended the organizing service. Leland Waters and Fred B. Moseley of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, Atlanta, staff were present.

The board recently designated Detroit as one of its "Operation Big Cities" points. This means it will concentrate on extension of Southern Baptist churches in the nation's "Motor City," so dubbed because of the volume of automobiles made here.

Fred D. Hubbs of Detroit, executive secretary of Baptist State Convention of Michigan, said Southern Baptists started out in 1951 with six churches in Michigan, sponsored by another state convention. When the separate Michigan convention began work in 1957, there were 55 churches. Hubbs predicted 200 churches by the mid-sixties.

"Religious Issue" Top
1960 Convention Story

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The top story in the United States for 1960 was the election of a new President. The so-called "religious issue" tied in with that campaign has been selected top 1960 news item among Southern Baptists.

Editors of the Baptist Press, Southern Baptist Convention news agency, voted this the top story. Only one editor failed to mark it as No. 1 on the ballot.

With a score of 319 points on 32 ballots, it far outdistanced the second place story. This was the reported slackening in Southern Baptists' rapid growth.

The second place story did not poll any first-place votes but secured enough seconds, thirds, and fourths to make a score of 222 points. Trailing it in third place as story of the year was Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist World Congress at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June and July.

The Rio story got no first place votes but enough other support for a score of 184 points.

The only story to get a No. 1 ballot placing, other than the "religious issue," was the birth of new S B C agency. The Stewardship Commission was to come into existence on Jan. 1, 1961, by action of the 1960 S B C session.

The Stewardship Commission story got a score of 119 points.

The editors listed their top 10 stories from a ballot offering more than 20 potential "big stories." The consensus choices for stories rating from fifth through 10th, in order, are: the race issue as Southern Baptists were affected, 106 points; the report that more than 10,000 churches and missions have been formed since 1956 in a church extension drive, 97; the effort to tax Baptist agency property in Nashville, 96.

The high to which home and foreign missionary appointments have risen, 95 points; Baptist reaction to efforts by religious groups to secure federal funds for parochial schools, 74, and the S B C becoming the first religious group to have a teletype leased wire service, 66 points.

Baptist conventions in several states acted on the "religious issue." Four which met prior to election day could be considered as opposing the election of a Roman Catholic Church member to the Presidency.

At least nine conventions took action after John F. Kennedy won. These offered him their prayerful support but also reminded him of his promises to maintain church-state separation.

A tide of concern moved through Southern Baptist life late in 1960. It was over the decline in seminary enrolments, and the fact that fewer young people reportedly were committing themselves to church-related vocations.

While giving still increased, its rate of gain was less than years before. Some asked if the Convention was entering a spiritual recession, but at year's end the number of converts by 32,000 churches was expected to reach a promising 400,000.

The Baptist World Congress held its first meeting on South American soil. Among the 150,000 attending a Billy Graham rally at the Congress were several thousand Southern Baptists.

A marked increase in Baptist evangelism was evident after the Congress in Brazil.

The Stewardship Commission took from the Executive Committee its role of stewardship promotion. This includes the Cooperative Program and Forward Program of Church Finance leadership.

Merrill D. Moore who handled the promotion work with the Executive Committee became the stewardship agency's executive director in Nashville.

The race issue affected Baptists in many states. "Sit-ins" by Negroes were noted at churches in Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Louisiana. Georgia Baptists did away with their social service agency, after killing its report on public school integration. Tennessee and North Carolina Baptists said their institutions should decide for themselves whether to integrate. Baptists in Kentucky ordered their hospital trustees to integrate the hospitals.

Director C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., reported on the 30,000 Movement. He said that this church enlargement program had resulted in 10,252 new churches and missions since its start in 1956. The first church and mission to be organized after its start were honored. The 30,000 goal is timed for 1964.

The Baptist Sunday School Board appeared to have won its argument that its properties can not be taxed by the City of Nashville. A state tax board ruled for the Baptist board although the City indicated an appeal to the courts.

In Washington, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs devoted a conference to study of the church and public tax issue. Baptists in Virginia heard a religious liberty report on what churches should pay in the way of taxes on their land.

The Home Mission Board reported over 2000 missionaries. Most of them are under joint appointment and salary with state Baptist groups. The Foreign Mission Board reported nearly 1500 missionaries. Both are new high totals.

Baptists reacted to the effort by certain religious denominations to grab tax support for their parochial schools. Several Baptist editors carried editorials about the efforts to secure federal funds for sectarian education.

The Southern Baptist Convention became the first religious denomination to install a teletype leased wire network. It linked states from the Atlantic coast to the Midwest, giving them instant communication with each other.

The teletype service was patterned after inter-office networks of the airlines and after news wires maintained by Associated Press and United Press International.

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May this be the finest Christmas ever. May we see through the tinsel, the wrapping paper, the gaudy tapes and ribbons, the lighted trees to the star that shone over Bethlehem nearly 2000 years ago to herald the birth of our Saviour and Lord.

It is with this in mind that the Baptist Press wishes you a memorable Christmas for you and your loved ones. We sincerely hope that in 1961 just ahead, you will accomplish greater things, and that these accomplishments will further the cause of Him whose birth we are celebrating.