

December 23, 1960

**Other Agencies Get
Architecture Service**

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Helping churches to build is the main task, but the church architecture service of Southern Baptists here also lends a hand to Convention agencies when they ask for it.

This department of the Baptist Sunday School Board here occupies a vital spot in the denomination's current emphasis on establishing new churches.

But in carrying out this task of counseling with churches, it finds itself drawn into close contact with other Baptist agencies. This in turn leads to requests for special help for Baptist office sites, assemblies, children's home and college campuses, and other needs.

"While we know that consulting on church plans is our major service, we want to help other members of our Southern Baptist family when they ask for it," department secretary W. A. Harrell of Nashville said.

In its church building plan counsel, it is in close touch with the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board. This board has funds to loan for church buildings and funds with which to buy up choice church building lots while they are available.

With the tempo of Baptist church extension, the department aids about 100 churches a month it has never aided before. Over a year it will aid nearly 7000 churches, some more than once, according to Harrell.

The Home Mission Board frequently asks the church architecture department for advice on buildings and church sites before releasing loan or lot purchase funds.

The Baptist Sunday School Board, in keeping with the demand for church literature, has had to construct a new operations building and revamp a warehouse-type building for modern business offices in the last three years.

The church architecture department has counseled on this construction. Other Baptist agencies have therefore turned to the department for advice on their office building plans. This includes state conventions in Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana, Colorado, and Kansas.

It also includes such S B C agencies as the Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

The church architecture department has served several seminaries of the Convention in erecting children's buildings--day nursery-type facilities--on the campuses. Again it had had experience in designing such buildings for Convention assemblies at Ridgecrest, N. C., and Glorieta, N. M. These assemblies are operated under Sunday School Board direction.

When Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., built a new campus, it looked to the church architecture service for counsel. The department gave general counsel on the campus layout, but said specialists in library and dormitory construction would be needed for the buildings themselves.

The same is true of hospitals operated by Baptists, Harrell said. Some architect firms specialize in hospital construction, while the department here specializes in church buildings.

Its assembly experiences in Ridgecrest and Glorieta were valuable in its counsel with Virginia in developing year-round Eagle Eyrie Assembly in the Blue Ridge mountains and to Missouri for its new site on Lake of the Ozarks.

Harrell said the department also has been asked to help states which are developing retirement homes, or homes for the aged--Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia.

"All of this is preliminary counseling," Harrell commented about the department's aid to these agencies. "We're not claiming credit for the work."

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Weatherspoon Lecture
Set At Midwestern

(12-23-60)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--J. B. Weatherspoon, Baptist theologian and lesson writer, will lecture during a special week at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

President Millard J. Berquist announced Weatherspoon will be featured during the 1961 H. I. Hester Lectureship on Preaching Mar. 21-25. Hester, of Liberty, Mo., endowed the lecture series.

Weatherspoon was for many years professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Since retiring, he has been assisting Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

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Folks & facts.....

(12-23-60)

.....In the American Baptist Convention, new churches have been started at a rate of three per month since 1940. This is the greatest in their history, according to a 1960 census of American Baptist churches. (BP)

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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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December 30, 1960

Bremond School Violated Constitution, Edgar Says

AUSTIN--(BP)--Texas Commissioner of Education J. W. Edgar ruled here that the Bremond Independent School District has violated constitutional guarantees of church-state separation in operating a former Catholic parochial school as a public school.

He declined, however, to pass judgement on charges that Catholic nuns teaching in the robes of their order constitutes religious instruction.

After hearing testimony and evidence in the case, Edgar said, "I would have to agree that prior to 1958 and even up to October, 1960, the arrangement with the Catholic Church and the school district had led to some violation of law."

"It does seem to me," he said, "that the school board has made valiant efforts to clear up these practices, and I strongly urge the board to maintain the rules and regulations it has set up."

His action was the latest in a long series of legal and administrative decisions in a case first brought into the public spotlight with a suit filed in 1959.

A taxpayer-citizen group charged in the suit that public tax funds were being used illegally to support a Catholic parochial school.

The suit was dismissed because plaintiffs had not exhausted administrative remedy before taking the case to court.

The hearing before Edgar was another step in seeking administrative relief and was an appeal from an earlier ruling by the Bremond school board.

Six of the seventeen complainants in the case attended the hearing and indicated a desire to appeal Edgar's ruling to the state board of education. Definite decision on the appeal, which must be filed within 15 days after the hearing, was delayed until all complainants had been consulted.

Edgar said that he did not have authority to rule on the question of nuns wearing robes in the classroom, and that this would have to be decided by the courts or through legislation.

The complainants argued that wearing religious robes in the classroom "helps promulgate sectarian religious beliefs." Contributing to the influence, they say, is the physical location of the school within the compound of other church property including a church, parish house, and convent where the nun-teachers live.

Edgar expressed "great concern" over the school board's practice of leasing the school building for \$1 a year in an apparently permanent arrangement.

"I have to say that apparently the Bremond Independent School District has been negligent in its responsibility. I strongly urge the board to conduct its school in district-owned facilities," Edgar said.

Bremond Superintendent of Schools J. W. Baker outlined the economic difficulties that would result from discontinuing the former St. Mary's School as a public school. Since it became Bremond Elementary School No. 2 in 1947, the district has received state aid for all students. To forego this support, Baker said,

would impose severe financial hardship on the district.

If the complainants appeal Edgar's ruling and the state board of education sustains his judgement, the next step would be a return to the courts. The case is the first of its kind in the state and is viewed by some observers as an important test of several church-state separation principles.

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Talks Studying Baptist
Convention Merger Urged

(12-30-60)

By the Baptist Press

The editor of the Biblical Recorder, state Baptist newspaper of North Carolina, has called editorially for exploratory talks to re-appraise relations between the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention.

Editor J. Marse Grant of Raleigh, N. C. indicated that the talks might possibly result in "a strong, united Baptist witness in America."

"There is nothing to lose," he said, "and much to gain, even if no formal merger of the two bodies is achieved."

In New York, meanwhile, the general secretary of the American Baptist Convention endorsed Grant's suggestion, saying that such meetings are "certainly in order."

Edwin H. Tuller, in a statement issued from American Baptist Convention headquarters, agreed that the consultations should be considered "with the accent on the exploratory."

Grant's editorial stated that "no harm would be done even if the discussions were not fruitful in the beginning. If they did show promise, they could be followed up in a more concrete manner."

He questioned the best possible way to achieve an effective Baptist witness in America. Should we "continue to remain separate--even competitive in some areas, or sit down for friendly talks?"

Grant's suggestion was triggered by a proposal just prior to the National Council of Church's General Assembly in San Francisco calling for the union of four major protestant denominations.

The plan would unite more than 20 million members of the Methodist, Protestant Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and United Presbyterian denominations. Eugene Carlson Blake, top-ranking Presbyterian leader, made the suggestion.

Grant referred to the merger as "big news in the world of religion...it would be foolish," he said, "to ignore this significant move on the part of four large denominations.

"On the other hand, it does not mean that Baptists---as independent as they are---are going to start a union stampede.

"As Baptists," he said "the two bodies share common beliefs and this gives a good starting point. The two groups may not do all things the same way, but the fact remains we do have much in common."

More than 9,950,000 Baptists belong to the Southern Baptist Convention, while 1,550,000 comprise the American Baptist Convention.

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Youth Fitness Leader
Praises R. A. Program

MEMPHIS--(BP)--The enlarged Royal Ambassador program which will be ready for use by church chapters beginning Oct. 1, 1961, has received the endorsement of G. Ott Romney, deputy executive director of the President's Council on Youth Fitness at Washington, D.C.

The nationally known authority on youth fitness told of his enthusiasm about the program in a letter to Edward Hurt, Jr., of the Brotherhood Commission, who directed the building of this boys' program.

The program provides for increasing boys' missionary education through mental, emotional, and physical activities.

"We certainly congratulate you on the concept and extent of your Royal Ambassador program," Romney said. "You are speaking our language and investing your enlightened efforts toward the goal of the youth fitness program...when you say, 'we realize we are dealing with the total boy.'"

Romney said that the Council on Youth Fitness stresses the several components of fitness --mental, emotional, spiritual, and social, as well as the physical.

"We hold that the individual cannot be unbraided and each component recognized and dealt with separately. The individual is a complex rather than a compound. I...state these tenets to indicate that apparently your philosophy and ours is in agreement."

Educators have advised Brotherhood leaders that they consider universal the new approach of learning through activity---participation.

The enlarged program will provide for boys 9 through 17. Boys 9 through 11 will be known as Crusaders; boys 12 through 14, Pioneers, and boys 15 through 17, Ambassadors.

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Hollywood Producer
Interested In Judsons

(12-30-60)

HOLLYWOOD--(BP)--A leading motion picture producer here has expressed interest in filming the life stories of Adoniram and Ann Judson.

The Judsons sailed to Burma in 1812. Their change to Baptist doctrines on the way led to loss of financial support from their sponsoring denomination in the United States. It led Baptists to a foreign mission awakening.

Baptists throughout the United States and Canada are currently observing a period of church extension prior to the third Jubilee of this foreign mission development.

Referring to a book about the Judsons, producer Sam Engel told a group of churchwomen, "it's a great book; it's a great story. It can make a good motion picture and I would like to make it."

Engel produced the religious films "A Man Called Peter" and "The Story of Ruth."

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Folks & facts.....

....Mrs. Etta Carringe R. Elliott, Boiling Springs, N.C., wife of President Philip L. Elliott of Gardner-Webb College, was listed among "Who's Who of American Women." Gardner-Webb is operated by North Carolina Baptists. (BP)

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Couple Gives "Nest Egg"
For Medical Missions

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--An anonymous Arkansas couple turned over \$9,000 to the State Baptist Foundation here for educating a medical mission volunteer.

The \$9,000 represents a family "nest egg" saved over several years.

The couple has a 14-year-old daughter who wants to become a medical missionary. The gift carries the condition that the money be used for her graduate medical education if she follows through. Parents will pay her college expenses.

If she does not continue into medical school, the money will be used to support some other Baptist student training for medical missionary service.

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New Orleans Seminary
Adds Trailer Facilities

(12-30-60)

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--Student housing capacity has increased to 297 units on the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with the addition of a new trailer park with space for 24 trailers.

Twelve new homes have already been added to the campus with the completion of the added facilities. More than 2,500 people now reside on the campus.

All the conveniences of a modern subdivision, including trees, shrubbery and winter grass, have been constructed into the trailer park.

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Missouri Baptists Pass
30,000 Movement Goal

(12-30-60)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Missouri has passed its 1960 goal in the Southern Baptist 30,000 Movement by establishing 109 new churches and missions in eleven months.

The 18 new churches and 91 new missions topped the 1960 goal of 106 new churches and missions with the final report for the month of December still to be received.

Bruce C. Maples, director of the office of missions for the Missouri Baptist Convention, is in charge of the 30,000 Movement in Missouri, including mission work in Iowa jointly supported by the Missouri Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Iowa now has one church and 15 missions, 13 of which are sponsored by Missouri churches. Avery Wooderson, Indianola, Iowa, is superintendent of missions for Iowa, working with the Missouri office of missions.

Iowa missions are located at Bettendorf, Cedar Rapids, Mason City, Ottumwa, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Ames, Waterloo, Des Moines, Clinton, Lineville, Iowa City, Blockton, Indianola and Albia. The church is Fairview at Anamosa.

Two of the Iowa missions are already sponsoring missions of their own.

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Five Jewish Evangelism
Conferences Scheduled

By the Baptist Press

Texas Baptists have scheduled what are believed to be the first regional Jewish evangelism conferences in Southern Baptist history to help prepare church workers for a spring Jewish evangelism emphasis.

One-day clinics will be held at churches in Dallas, Fort Worth, Waco, San Antonio, and Houston, said A. Jase Jones, director of Jewish evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Each clinic will have separate conferences for pastors, evangelistic workers, music-education directors, Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union, Sunday School and Training Union workers.

Speakers and conference leaders include Jones, Don Brandeis, converted Jew and Southern Baptist evangelist of Tallahassee, Fla.; Miss Margaret Laswell, Southern Baptist Home missionary from St. Louis; and William B. Mitchell, superintendent of Jewish work for the Home Mission Board.

"There are more than 60,000 Jews in Texas and 75,000 in the Wisconsin-Minnesota Baptist Association where Texas Baptists help support several churches and missions," said Jones.

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Baptist Hospital Gets
\$100,000 Chapel Gift

(12-30-60)

HOUSTON--(BP)--Memorial Hospital, one of Texas Baptists' eight hospitals, has received a \$100,000 gift for construction of a chapel to be part of a proposed new wing at the downtown institution.

The chapel, which will seat about 100 people, will front on a main city street. "This will provide a convenient worship site for outsiders as well as for patients and their families," said Administrator John Dudley. "The chapel will also be used for hospital sponsored services."

The new wing will ultimately rise to 12 stories, adding 200 rooms to the hospital. Construction is expected to begin late in 1961 or early in 1962.

Funds for the chapel, which will be known as the William Victor Bowles Memorial Chapel, were given by the widow of the late W. V. Bowles and by his daughter, Mrs. Fred T. Couper, Jr., both of Houston.

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Nashville Still Tries
To Tax Baptist Land

(12-30-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The city of Nashville has appealed here for the right to tax three Baptist properties. The largest affected is that belonging to the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The municipal government asked chancey court to set aside a ruling that the properties are exempt from taxes.

The city said it wants to tax a cafeteria, snack bar, and six parking lots for employees of the Sunday School Board; student and faculty parking lots at Baptist-owned Belmont College and three parking lots for employees and visitors at mid-state Baptist Hospital.

Belmont and mid-state are institutions of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The city's move is the newest in a series of efforts to tax the lands. The state board of equalization ruled some time ago that the properties are not taxable. The city is appealing this board's ruling to the courts.

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The issue will probably go finally to the Tennessee State Supreme Court, regardless of the outcome of the present appeal.

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Mobile Missions Schools
Called Best In History

(12-30-60)

MOBILE, Ala.--(BP)--Recent schools of missions held in the mobile Baptist Association have been described as "the most successful ever held in the Southern Baptist Convention."

The schools, held by 80 of the 84 Baptist churches in the association, reached a total of 41,151 people.

A special world missions rally at the Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile kicked off the week's activities. Principal speaker was Baker James Cauthen, secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Eight conversions and 321 decisions were recorded during the week-long schools of missions.

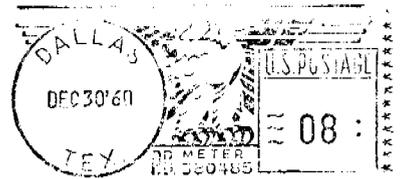
H. S. Sauls, promotional secretary of the Mobile Baptist Association and director of the school said that he was "confident that many lasting results will come from this special effort."

"When you have good news like this," he said, "brother, you want to share it."

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December 30, 1960

Baptist Missionary Heads New Congo Relief Agency

By C. E. Bryant

WASHINGTON, D.C.--(BP)--Only 225 doctors are serving a population of 14 million people in the Congo.

Economic breakdown in the country has made it impossible for Congo nationals to pay for medical treatment.

A minimum of 250,000 refugees in Kasai Province are homeless and hungry, with an estimated 200 dying every day of starvation.

This picture of human suffering in the West-African country which dropped into chaos after gaining independence from Belgium last June 30 was told to Baptist World Alliance officers here by Roland G. Metzger, an American Baptist missionary now serving as executive secretary in America of the Congo Protestant Relief Agency.

Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, later stated that human suffering is acute in the Congo area and expressed his appreciation of the effective work of the Congo Protestant Relief Agency in seeking to meet the need for relief and refugee aid.

Metzger said that the agency is seeking the services of 100 doctors and dentists and a minimum of \$550,000 for financing first year activities.

Metzger, a second generation missionary to the Congo, said that the agency was formed to meet the relief needs of the Congo Protestant Council, representing indigenous Congolese churches and 40 Protestant missions. American, British, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Baptist missionaries work in the area.

Congo Protestant Relief Agency has its headquarters office in Leopoldville, with branch offices in London and New York. Its workers have been able to take aid into some sections where even the United Nations has not been successful.

Most urgent need, Metzger said, is money to pay for inland transportation of foods and medicines. These materials are available through American medical firms and American government surplus, in cooperation with Church World Service, but overland transportation from port of entry costs \$80 a ton. A minimum of \$16,000 a month is necessary therefore to get 200 tons of free food monthly to the starving areas.

Congo's original 700 medical doctors, never sufficient for the vast population, has dwindled to 225 since the coming of independence. One hundred of these are Belgians, most of whom are engaged in private practice. The International Red Cross and the World Health Organization support 45, Roman Catholic Missions 25, and Protestant Missions 55.

Metzger hopes his organization can augment this force with 100 doctors, 66 from America and 34 from other countries. Doctors volunteering for a year's service will be given travel expense, housing, and a living allowance of \$1500 annually.

The address of the Congo Protestant Relief Agency is 297 Park Avenue South, New York 10.

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* C. E. Bryant is editor of the Baptist World, monthly publication of the Baptist World Alliance with offices in Washington, D.C.