

BAPTIST FEATURES

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January 8, 1961

The Great Physician Ousts Medicine Man

DANIA, Fla.--(BP)--The Christian preacher has replaced the medicine man as religious leader of the Seminole Indians with little trouble.

Christians on the Dania reservation say this is because their people have always believed in God, or that a universal being governs the world. They are not surprised that in less than 20 years of mission work, 80 per cent of their people are professing, active Christians.

Seminoles have always believed, as Christians do, that there is a better life after death.

"We didn't call it heaven," says Bill Osceola, pastor of the 150-member Mekuskey Independent Baptist Church on the Dania reservation.

"But," he adds, "we always believed that our souls had to go there or live in eternal punishment."

"Of course Seminoles didn't believe in Christ," says his distant cousin, Billie Osceola, pastor of the other church on the Dania reservation, the 110-member First Baptist.

"But we thought we needed to have a light in our bodies before we could cross a long, narrow bridge to a happier hunting ground.

"This is very similar to the Christian doctrine that a man must believe in Christ as the light of the world before entering the Kingdom of God."

To get the light in their bodies, young Seminoles were burned on their arms with hot reeds. Dania's two Seminole preachers have scars on their arms from the ancient custom.

Genus Crenshaw, a Southern Baptist missionary who has been assisting the First Seminole congregation for nine years, says there is no doubt that the similarity of the Seminole and Christian doctrines has made his work easier.

"Ancient Seminole stories are good illustrations of Christianity," he says.

Ancient Seminole custom called for a green corn dance once a year. There, men, women, and children scratched and shed their "bad blood," responsible for their sins throughout the year.

"It was thought that the new blood would help us live better lives," says the other Billie. "This is very much like communion, where the Christian accepts wine as the symbol of the blood of Christ as a forgiveness of sins."

The two congregations are located west of Dania. The Mekuskeys, organized in 1949, have just completed a new \$22,000 church.

The First Seminole Baptist has a church and a two-year old, \$11,000 education unit, built with their own funds and aid from Southern Baptists' women's organization.

Both congregations conduct Sunday school classes for adults and children. And they have missionary societies and youth fellowships.

"The people are very interested and like to attend meetings," says Crenshaw. "They seem very anxious to learn."

Although most younger Seminole now have educations, most of the older Seminole have little formal education.

Bill Osceola didn't know how to read or write when he decided to enter the ministry. He had to take a first-grade reading course along with Bible studies at a Bible institute in Orlando, Fla.

Cousin Billie has attended Bible classes at a church in Miami and says, "I go to every ministers' meeting I can. I don't have any education but I've tried to learn."

Crenshaw says the Seminoles take their Scriptures very seriously.

One example is their interest in missions. Both Dania churches have sponsored mission congregations for their own people on the Brighton and Big Cypress reservations. Both now send a missionary to the 300 Seminoles who live along the Tamiami Trail.

January 8, 1964

Statement Divulges
Agency 1960 Receipts

NASHVILLE--(BP)--How did Southern Baptists' agencies share the nearly \$29 million received by the Convention last year through the Cooperative Program and designated gifts?

A report by the S B C treasurer here shows that the Foreign Mission Board of the Convention received almost \$17 million. The Home Mission Board received \$5.6 million and the largest of its six seminaries, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, got slightly more than \$1 million.

No other Convention agency reached seven figures in disbursements. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., came the closest with \$963,000.

Others, in order, were:

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville--\$764,282

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisiana--\$737,579

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.--\$666,814

Radio and Television Commission--\$606,401

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.--\$391,267

Annuity Board--\$333,719

S B C Budget Fund--\$200,113

Brotherhood Commission--\$170,056

Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville--\$150,088

American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville--\$105,339

Southern Baptist Hospitals (New Orleans and Jacksonville, Fla.)--\$75,196

Education Commission--\$48,037

Historical Commission--\$38,020

Public Affairs Committee--\$33,019

Christian Life Commission--\$31,505

Southern Baptist Foundation--\$31,421

Baptist World Alliance--\$387 (The Alliance received \$50,000 from the Convention operating budget. The \$387 is separate.)

Woman's Missionary Union, which is not an agency, but an auxiliary of the Convention supported separately by Baptist women, received \$188. It did not share in Cooperative Program allocation.

With the exception of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, which receive substantial amounts through separate special offerings each year, the great majority of the funds received by any agency came through its allocation from the Cooperative Program.

Present Age Said
Christianity's Best

ATLANTA--(BP)--The present revolutionary age is the greatest in which Christianity has existed, a prominent church historian told Baptist leaders in Atlanta.

Kenneth Scott Latourette of New Haven, Conn., emeritus professor of church history at Yale University and author of numerous books, including a seven-volume history of the expansion of Christianity, gave four reasons why he considered the present age Christianity's greatest.

- 1) Christianity is more widely-spread than any other religion has ever been.
- 2) Churches are more deeply-rooted among more people than at any previous time.
- 3) Christians are feeling the way of coming together as never before, and "it is more than just the ecumenical movement."
- 4) The influence of Christ is spreading outside the Christian community.

Latourette was speaking to state mission superintendents in their annual meeting at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board offices here.

Latourette's three lectures to the mission leaders were in the setting that Christianity is in a revolutionary age.

"Never before has all of mankind passed through as drastic a revolution as it is passing through today," he said. He pointed to the ways it touches all of life: politics, communism, economy, knowledge, society, and religion.

He credited western Christianity with giving birth to most of the revolutionary forces, and that much of the revolution has had its beginnings among Protestant people.

Latourette also discussed the revival of Roman Catholicism and Protestantism during the past century.

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Mission, Church Goal
4000 For Year 1961

(1-8-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--More than 4,000 new Southern Baptist missions and churches will be started during 1961, if goals set by state leaders of the 30,000 Movement are reached.

During the year, there will be new efforts among students and among laymen giving their vacation time. There will also be new methods of financing and special surveys to find needs for, and start, new missions.

In the first six months of the year an attempt will be made to start a thousand home fellowship groups and 1,500 new Sunday schools.

These plans and goals were announced in Atlanta during a meeting of state mission superintendents and state 30,000 Movement chairmen representing 24 state conventions.

The 30,000 Movement, which was started in June, 1956, is an attempt to organize 20,000 missions and 10,000 new churches by 1964. By mid-year of 1960, 10,252 had been reported, an average of nearly 2,600 a year. A new report, expected to exceed 11,000 will be given in February.

"We feel that the progress to this point is satisfactory for the early stages of the Movement," said Arthur Rutledge of Atlanta, chairman of the promotion committee of the Movement.

"We are at a time, however, when our best efforts must be made to secure the co-operation of every association and church to assist in sponsoring a new mission or church," he added.

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Plans for the year include placing 800 students on the field in summer mission work, a majority of whom will start missions or locate places where they might be started later.

160 laymen are expected to give a week, paying their own expenses, to work in the northeast, midwest, and west as a part of the Movement.

States have also been asked to re-survey their territory in a population and church study to determine where additional churches and missions are needed.

C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., whose challenge to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1956 started the Movement and who is now its director, expressed encouragement over the new goals.

"I hope that by the time of our next meeting of the 30,000 chairmen in August we will be prepared to accept still higher goals for the great year of church extension in 1962," Warren said.

The goals by states are as follows: Alabama--130; Arizona--85; Arkansas--70; California--250; Colorado--100.

District of Columbia--5; Florida--184; Georgia--100; Hawaii--6; Illinois--155; Indiana--91; Kansas--55.

Kentucky--165; Louisiana--100; Michigan--75; Mississippi--100; Missouri--121; New Mexico--60; North Carolina--120.

Ohio--142; Oklahoma--100; Oregon-Washington--50; Texas--300; Virginia--60.

The following have been suggested but have not been confirmed: Alaska--16; Cuba--5; Maryland--50; Panama-Canal Zone--6; South Carolina--100; Tennessee--120; Foreign Missions--1000.

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Isaac Perez To Direct
Education In Panama

(1-8-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Isaac Perez of Dallas, Tex., was named associate superintendent in charge of religious education for Southern Baptist missions in Panama.

Perez, associate in charge of education and promotion in the language missions department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, began his new work in January.

A former missionary in Panama, Perez will work with L. D. Wood of Balboa, Canal Zone, superintendent of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board work in Panama. His task will be helping Panamanian Baptist churches to establish educational programs.

Perez, a native of San Antonio, is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco. He attended Mexican Baptist Seminary in El Paso, Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

A missionary with the Home Mission Board for more than six years, Perez has been a pastor, and a state worker with Sunday school, Training Union, and stewardship promotion.

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C O R R E C T I O N

Baptist Press dated Jan. 6, story captioned "Peak Month Brightens 1960 Receipts Picture," please make the following correction in pgh 13 Line 1. The first sentence of Pgh 13 should be deleted and this substituted for it:

The projected 1961 S B C income through the Cooperative Program is \$18,054,716.

End correction.

Thank You, Baptist Press, Nashville office

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January 8, 1961

Cutline

HONOR COMMISSION--The Stewardship Commission was honored at an informal reception in Nashville as it began the New Year as a new agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Kay Anderson, right, secretary to Porter Routh, pours coffee for Merrill D. Moore, left, and Mrs. Moore. Moore is executive-director of the new commission. Routh is executive secretary of the S B C Executive Committee, of which stewardship promotion formerly was a part. The new agency is located in Nashville.--(BP) Photo