

January 13, 1961

Church Gets New Car With Trading Stamps

FORT WORTH--(BP)--They've been giving away trading stamps at Travis Avenue Baptist Church here.

It wasn't a drive to boost attendance or increase giving, but an effort to get a new station wagon for the church's youth activities.

Teenagers in the church ended a three-month campaign recently, trading a total of 1,288,800 S & H Green Stamps for a sparkling new nine-passenger station wagon.

It took 1,074 books to hold the stamps, given to the teenagers by members of the church.

Church Youth Director Gerry Craft said that the project has done more than any other one thing to unify the youth of the church and stimulate interest in the church youth program.

Craft, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said that since the drive started, the young people have been meeting every Saturday night for a youth rally. He said the last meeting was held during a drenching rain, but more than 100 showed up, and three decisions were made during the rally.

It all started when Craft's 1951 model station wagon began falling apart, he said. The church, deeply in debt after a vast building program, indicated a desire to get a new wagon for the youth program, but funds were just not available.

Craft hit upon the trading stamp idea, sold it to the church Youth Council, and made a quick phone call to the trading stamp firm. They said that to their knowledge, nothing of that nature had ever been done in the nation, but if they could find an automobile dealer willing to take on the trade, they had a deal.

Pastor James Coggin and the church's finance committee approved the idea, and the youngsters found their automobile dealer.

The Youth Council set up four committees and assigned each committee to contact every member on the rolls of each department in the Sunday School. The youngsters visited more than 1,500 homes during the three-month period.

Radio and television stations learned of the project and gave the young people a hand in publicizing the venture. Several Catholic men heard about the campaign and offered their Green Stamps.

One woman told the youths when they visited her home, "I'm not about to give you my Green Stamps, but I'll donate \$5 cash."

They collected an average of 89 1/3 books per week. One mathematically-inclined youngster calculated that if each of the stamps were laid end to end, the path of stamps would stretch 18 1/2 miles.

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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January 13, 1961

Criswell Blasts Catholics During Evangelism Meeting

FORT WORTH--(BP)--The pastor of the world's largest Southern Baptist Church predicted a "death struggle" between Protestants and Roman Catholics within the next generation during the annual Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, told more than 7,500 Texas Baptists that it is entirely possible "that we might live in a Catholic-controlled America with persecutions just like those in Spain and Argentina."

At the close of the service, Criswell challenged "every minister of the Gospel of Christ who is unafraid to take a stand for what he believes" to come to the front of the vast Fort Worth Coliseum for a prayer of dedication.

More than 3,000 ministers filed to the front, filling the aisles and overflowing into the foyer.

Following the Conference, an Abilene, Tex. Pastor, J. Lindell Ferguson of Bellmont Baptist Church, criticized news reports of the meeting, saying that wire service stories implied that the 3,000 ministers agreed with Criswell's scalding of Catholics.

Ferguson said he believed the ministers pledged their support to the second part of Criswell's message, an appeal to be more evangelistic in their churches during the coming year.

During his message, Criswell cited two specific incidents of persecution in New England states---one in which a Baptist church was denied a building permit by a Catholic-controlled municipal government, and another in which a Catholic city official ordered a Baptist church to quit using a neon sign advertising the church.

"This is the coming death struggle of the Baptist witness in America," he said. "This is no time to sit and cry, this is no time to reason why---this is the time to do or die."

Criswell said that the only way Baptists can begin to grow faster than other religious faiths is through evangelism. "Our life, our very existence, lies in evangelism," he said.

Earlier, Ramsey Pollard, president of the Southern Baptist Convention portrayed the Baptist witness in America as the greatest in history, "and it'll be even better in 1961," he said.

Pollard, pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., criticized articles appearing in Baptist newspapers throughout the nation suggesting the possibility of a spiritual recession in the Southern Baptist Convention. "It's not so," he said.

"Gifts to missions were greater in 1960 than ever before," said Pollard. "We're going to baptize 400,000 in 1961."

In one of three major addresses during the Conference, Dale Moody, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., decried Christians who sanction racial prejudice under the cloak of the church as "one of the most horrible things in the nation."

In the Conference's opening session, James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., described evangelism as the most revolutionary, patriotic and satisfying work a Christian can do.

A Waco, Tex. pastor, Charles Wellborn, said that one of the major weaknesses within the Southern Baptist Convention is the problem of alarmingly-large non-resident memberships.

Dr. R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus of the Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., closed the conference with his well-known sermon "Jesus Above All" on special request from Texas Baptist Evangelism Director C. Wade Freeman.

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Baylor Medical School
Gets \$235,855 In Grants

(1-13-61)

HOUSTON--(BP)--The Baylor University School of Medicine has been awarded four grants totaling \$235,855 for research and experimentation in the treatment of polio and the cause of paralytic strokes.

Three of the four grants came from the National Foundation for infantile paralysis, one from the National Heart Institute, an organization of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

A \$149,911 grant from the National Foundation was the largest of the four grants. It will be used to discover improved methods of care for paralytic polio patients and to teach rehabilitation methods to doctors, medical students, and rehabilitation workers.

Presented to Dr. William A. Spencer, chairman of the Baylor Medical School's department of rehabilitation, the grant will also be used to finance extensive research on polio and its complications affecting the lungs, heart, kidneys and blood circulation.

All results of the research and experiments will be used in graduate and undergraduate medical studies at Baylor.

The National Foundation also granted \$18,220 to Dr. James K. Alexander for a study of polio after-effects, and research on the correlation between muscular paralysis and high blood pressure in the lungs.

A ten-year grant of \$19,568 from the National Foundation went to Baylor Professor Paul R. Harrington for a long-term study of the effects of a special surgical method for preventing curvature of the spine.

Two Baylor faculty members, Dr. William Fields, and Dr. Walter P. Abbott, were granted \$48,156 by the National Heart Institute for a study of the cause of paralytic strokes. The doctors feel that some strokes might be caused by hardening of the arteries, and will conduct research and experiments on the relationship between the two.

The Baylor study, part of a nation-wide project involving ten institutions, will include evaluation of treatment of strokes by surgery, and by anti-coagulant drugs. Baylor has been designated the collection agency to correlate the research in the ten institutions.

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Folks & facts.....

(1-13-61)

.....George W. Sadler, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary and area secretary for 46 years, has joined the faculty of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., as visiting professor of religion for the 1961 spring semester. (BP)

Baylor Begins New
Graduate Program

WACO, Tex.--(BP)--Baylor University is offering a new graduate program to train young women for counseling and administrative positions in women's dormitories.

Miss Ann Marshall, newly-named dean of women at Baylor, will direct the graduate program, said J. D. Bragg, dean of the graduate school.

Graduate assistantships will be awarded to some applicants, providing room, board, tuition and a monthly cash stipend, said Bragg. He said there is a "serious shortage" of trained personnel in American colleges and universities.

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Howard Payne Accredited
By Women's Organization

(1-13-61)

BROWNWOOD, Tex.--(BP)--Howard Payne College has been accredited by the American Association of University Women, the world's largest organization of university women.

Approval by the organization means that the women graduates of the college, both past and future, are eligible for individual membership in the organization and that Howard Payne may become a corporate member, said Guy D. Newman, Howard Payne president.

The Baptist college has already complied with necessary regulations to assume its corporate membership.

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Hurts Leave Cuba
To Work In Panama

(1-13-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hurt, Southern Baptist Missionaries in Cuba since 1957, have been transferred by the denomination's Home Mission Board to Panama.

The Hurts, now at his parents' home in Louisville, Miss., left Cuba Jan. 8 because of the uncertainty of travel between the island and the United States. They were re-assigned January 12, and were to leave soon after for Panama.

"This appointment has been under consideration by the Hurts and the Home Mission Board during recent weeks," said Gerald Palmer of Atlanta, associate secretary of the language missions department. "The diplomatic break between the two countries hurried the action somewhat."

In Panama, Hurt will teach at the Bible Institute at Panama City. He is a graduate of Mississippi College where he received a master's degree, and is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Hurt, a native of Belton, Texas, graduated from Mary Hardin-Baylor College in Belton and from New Orleans Seminary. They have a son and a daughter.

Arthur Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the Board's division of missions said this would leave six missionaries at work with Cuban Baptists. The Board has asked the missionaries to use their best judgement about remaining in Cuba.

"The Cuban work, with 150 national workers, has been largely an indigenous work with many capable leaders for several years," Rutledge said. "A small group of Southern Baptist missionaries has helped through the years, principally in the Seminary at Havana and in providing guidance for the churches."

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Baptist Hour Observes
Twentieth Anniversary

FORT WORTH--(BP)--"The Baptist Hour," well-known radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission, observed its twentieth anniversary during January.

When the first "Baptist Hour" was broadcast through a telephone hookup between the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La. and station KWKH in Shreveport, 17 stations in 11 states carried the worship service.

Today "The Baptist Hour" is broadcast on 450 stations in 36 states, plus several foreign countries.

Along with its growth, the format of the program has also changed through the years. The first broadcast featured a 20-minute sermon by M. E. Dodd, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, preceded by two verses of a hymn by the organist and choir.

Under a new format, the length of the sermon has been cut in half, with the preacher on the program, Hershel Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, often informally talking to the program's announcer and master of ceremonies, Theodore Lott.

The program now places a big emphasis on music, featuring a 16-voice Baptist Hour Choir, solos, quartets, and an orchestra.

During the program's 20 year history, 82 different speakers have appeared on the broadcast, including 12 Southern Baptist Convention presidents, and three presidents of the Baptist World Alliance.

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Planned Action Keynotes
New Evangelism Book

(1-13-61)

DALLAS--(BP)--"Planned Action" is the keynote of the new Evangelism Plan book for Southern Baptists. C. E. Autrey of Dallas, director of the Home Mission Board's evangelism division, said the book is for use in churches during 1961, 1962, and 1963.

"This...is not a book on motivations," wrote Vernon Yearby evangelism associate of Dallas, in an introduction. "It is a methods book, pre-supposing spiritual motivations for planned action."

The book carries heavy emphasis on perennial evangelism and personal soul-winning. These functions are a part of the activities outlined for Baptist Jubilee Revivals. The suggested activities include Soul-Winning Commitment Day followed by soul-winning studies or a clinic to train those who have committed themselves, a religious census for location of prospects for visitation, a two-week revival, followed by training in church membership and encouragement of spiritual growth for the new member.

Detailed plans for revivals and a year-around evangelistic program for a church, information on more complete transfer of church membership by moving members, the operation of the church council, guiding principles in public relations, and publicity materials are presented in the new book.

"We have sought to place proven plans for successful evangelism in this Plan Book," said Autrey. "Successful evangelism includes intensive revival efforts, week by week perennial evangelism emphasis, and sustained guidance in spiritual growth."

The new book will be distributed by state secretaries of evangelism for all Southern Baptist Convention pastors and churches.

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Two Northeast States
Get First Workers

ATLANTA--(BP)--Massachusetts and Connecticut have received their first Southern Baptist workers with the appointment of two pastoral missionaries by the denomination's Home Mission Board and the Maryland Baptist Convention.

Charles H. Pollock of Covington, Ga. and Owen Sherrill of Kennett, Mo. will serve in missions at Hartford, Conn. and Springfield, Mass. Both missions are affiliated with the Manhattan Baptist Church of New York City.

"Both of these missions will be organized into churches in combined services in February," announced A. B. Cash of Atlanta, secretary of the pioneer missions department of the Mission Board.

A pastoral missionary, supported by the mission or church, a state convention, and the Home Mission Board, works primarily at organizing new work., in addition to serving as pastor.

The two missions at Hartford and Springfield will become the fifth and sixth churches sponsored by the Manhattan Baptist Church in three years. Paul S. James is pastor of the Manhattan church. Elmer Sizemore of New York, area missionary for these northeastern states, has helped in starting the work.

The Hartford Chapel, now meeting in a YMCA, has been led for more than a year by laymen, chaplains, and university professors. Pollock, to be pastor of the mission, has been a pastor at Covington, and was formerly pastor of churches in Florida and Mississippi.

He is a graduate of Mercer University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and is a native of Tucker, Ga.

The Fairview Chapel in Springfield has been led by laymen for the past two years. Sherrill, a native of Kennett, Mo. where he is now pastor, was educated at William Jewell College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He has been pastor of churches at St. Joseph and Charleston, Mo.

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Stevens Book Presents
Plan For World Peace

(1-13-61)

FORT WORTH--(BP)--A plan to win world peace through the "ultimate weapon" of Christianity is presented in a new book by Paul M. Stevens, director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

The book is entitled "The Ultimate Weapon---Christianity" and is published by Thomas Nelson and Sons of New York City. Release date is March 6, 1961.

Stevens' book is listed in the publisher's spring catalogue which describes it as "a rousing call for all-out mobilization of the West in the war of ideas with international Communism."

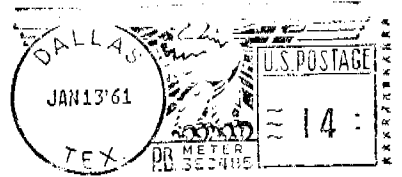
"Communism," says Stevens, "has no monopoly on revolution. Christianity was born as a revolt against entrenched and evil powers in the economic and spiritual areas. Today, of the two contending ideologies, Christianity alone has a burning concern for human needs and human values in the light of divine intention."

This makes it the "ultimate weapon" in the war of ideas, of far more importance than the economic and military claims made either by the East or West, said Stevens.

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