

January 25, 1961.

**Editor Joins Preacher  
In Race Conduct Appeal**

ATHENS, Ga.--(BP)--A Baptist editor and a Baptist minister told their people they deplored the violence which hit the University of Georgia campus here upon the enrolment of two Negro students.

In an editorial in the Christian Index, weekly Baptist paper published at Atlanta, Editor John J. Hurt, Jr., declared: "Our specific appeal is that Georgia return to law and order. . . . Our Bible demands that and more with its teaching of brotherhood, the dignity of man, and compassion.

"Conduct ourselves as good citizens and as God-fearing people and we gain everything. Give way to mob violence and we lose respect for ourselves and earn the scorn of all mankind." The Index has about 110,000 subscribers.

The Associated Press reported the sermon preached in Athens First Baptist Church by its pastor, Howard P. Giddens. He is immediate past president of Georgia Baptist Convention.

Giddens told his congregation, "I live in a beautiful city of good people. These people want reverence and respect and not violence. . . . Christ died for men of all color and Christ is the answer to the problems facing the people of Athens today."

Giddens, according to the report, said the ugly headlines did not represent Athens and the people who live there. "Those ugly headlines changed our city and it is time for our people to stand up for truth and obedience of the law in Athens," he added.

The news accounts described his sermon as bringing tears to Giddens' own eyes and to many of his listeners.

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**Meridian Churches  
Follow-up Survey**

(1-25-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Churches in Meridian, Miss., may follow the 98 per cent complete survey they have finished with a recheck and with simultaneous evangelistic emphasis by all Protestant churches in 1962.

Meridian Protestants, Catholics, and Jews co-operated in the survey, directed by Billy Hargrove of Atlanta, which revealed that one-third of Meridian's white population of almost 30,000 is unchurched.

Hargrove, secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of survey and special studies, developed the methods and materials for comprehensive religious surveys of entire cities, areas, or states.

"Everyone did a great work," said Hargrove. "We had wonderful co-operation." When surveyors called, 50 per cent of Meridian's 6218 families had already filled out family survey cards which had been sent out from the schools. Another 20 per cent had clipped the cards from the newspapers.

"This is the best return we have had from placing the cards in the people's hands before surveyors went on the field," Hargrove said.

Of the more than 11,000 unchurched in Meridian, 8470 are nine years of age or above. With 18 denominations represented in Meridian, only 1539, less than 10 per cent of the population, belong to churches in other places. This is the lowest number of unaffiliated church members uncovered in any of the surveys made by Hargrove.

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Hargrove also reported the lowest percentage of refusals, only 70 in the entire city.

Hargrove said the churches are contemplating a total recheck next January to be followed with a simultaneous evangelistic emphasis by all Protestant groups the last two weeks of March.

The tabulated results, on file in the office of associational missionary Troy Prince, and perennial follow-up surveys will keep the religious status of Meridian's population completely up-to-date, according to Hargrove.

A study of three consecutive surveys in Meridian is being made by Hargrove's department to determine which groups are picking up their prospects--how many, what ages, and in what areas of the city.

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Recreation A Church's  
Older Adult Opportunity

(1-25-61)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptists are finding new approaches in their ministry to the aging, since it does not fit into their existing organizations.

One of these approaches is that of church recreation, according to Adelle Carlson of Nashville.

Miss Carlson is a consultant with the church recreation service of the Convention's Sunday School Board.

"We find that in most churches, the senior adult group, ages 65 and over, runs about 10 per cent of the church roll," she added.

"The extension department of our Sunday school is the existing organization coming closest to reaching the needs of these people. However, it reaches only one-fifth of the senior adults," Miss Carlson observed.

"It does a good job in providing Bible study and visitation in their homes, but it is designed only to reach those who can not come to church. In its limited scope, it can not offer the wider range of church recreation."

Recreation for the senior adult--this term is used by Southern Baptists to speak of the aging--takes on a new meaning, one recreation does not have to younger ages. Miss Carlson said this is because of the enforced leisure brought on by retirement.

Recreation includes many more things to a senior adult. To a schoolboy, education is his work. To a senior adult, education may be one phase of recreation.

The church is in an ideal position to offer recreation opportunities to this age group, Miss Carlson thinks. "There is a natural turning to the church as a person gets older." This is because they have more time to meditate and because they have greater awareness of death.

"The church can best work with them in their meditation and in overcoming their fears of death," she said.

The church should not feel itself in competition with private groups and government-sponsored activity for the aging, Miss Carlson reported. Nor should the church be offended if one of its senior adults prefers a different group of older adults to the one the church sponsors.

"There is room for all to be of service," she declared.

The church can offer facilities more readily than can some other groups. "It already has the building and equipment," Miss Carlson said. "In its women in the age group 30 to 50, the church has the potential leadership for its recreation program," she added.

There is no reason for a small church to feel that only the large city church can offer facilities. "This program is as big and wide in scope as an individual wants to make it," she stated. Even a mission church can have this. "All you need is a room with chairs or pews."

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Baptist Press

In her booklet, available to churches on request, Miss Carlson names many fields of service senior adults may give their church. The booklet is entitled, "Recreation for Senior Adults."

"If our churches are smart, they will harness this potential," she commented. Among ways in which the aging may serve their churches is through assembling data for church histories, making telephone calls for the church, preparing church mailings, mending choir uniforms, and visiting newcomers to the community.

The frequency of church meetings for senior adults may vary from once a month to once a week. Miss Carlson advised against meeting more often than weekly. "These people continue to have outside interests in the community," she said.

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Folks & facts.....

(1-25-61)

.....Miss Sarah Holmes, student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has accepted the position of Girls' Auxiliary director with the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union in Jackson, Miss. (BP)

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