

March 16, 1961

**Sacramento Study Shows  
One-Fourth In Churches**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)--Sacramento's population has grown twice as fast as local church membership, and only one-fourth of the 500,719 residents are members of the city's churches.

These facts were revealed in a citywide religious survey taken by 159 Protestant churches, 15 Catholic churches, and a Jewish synagogue.

The survey was planned and directed by Billy Hargrove of Atlanta, secretary of the department of survey and special studies of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"A 1948 survey indicated only 16 per cent of the population were church members," said Hargrove. "In 1957, a Billy Graham survey found 22 per cent were members. We found 24.9 per cent, one of the lowest uncovered in the nation."

However, he said, 54 per cent claimed membership in churches, but the majority hold their membership in other cities. In the 13 years since the first survey, local church membership increased by 86,655, while non-members increased by 176,711.

In a breakdown of figures of church members, 18 per cent are Catholics and 33.5 per cent are Protestants. Baptists, Lutherans, and Methodists are the largest Protestant groups. The survey revealed 2,559 Buddhists.

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**Routh, Berry Speaking  
To Orient Missionaries**

(3-16-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The chairman and executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee were to take part in the Orient Missions Conference in Hong Kong March 24-31.

Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary, planned to visit Baptist missions in Japan before going to Hong Kong. At the conference, he would speak on Baptist polity affecting relationships between churches, associations of churches, and conventions.

At another occasion, Routh was to discuss the financial support of Southern Baptists through their Cooperative Program. Stewardship principles and promotion methods were subject for a third address by Routh.

Kendall Berry of Blytheville, Ark., would lead devotionals and give a layman's testimony. Berry, a banker, paid his own expenses for the conference. Routh was sent by the SBC Foreign Mission Board, whose area secretary for the Orient, J. Winston Crawley of Richmond, would direct it.

"The Orient today, along with Africa, offers a terrific challenge to Christian missions. Southern Baptists are now in many more countries of the Orient than before World War II despite the closing of China," Routh said. It was his first visit to this part of the world.

The Foreign Mission Board reported the Orient Missions Conference would be attended by representative missionary and national Baptist leaders. It was not an official conference with power to determine policy.

The Orient work ranges from Japan and Korea on the north to Indonesia on the south and Pakistan on the west. The last Orient Missions Conference came in 1957.

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Grand Canyon Works  
Toward Accreditation

PHOENIX (BP)--Grand Canyon College here has launched a crash program designed to win accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The Baptist senior college, only college of its kind operated by a religious group in Arizona, already is recognized by state organizations for its teacher-training programs.

The crash program was reported at the meeting of the executive board of the sponsoring Baptist General Convention of Arizona.

In another report to the board, the city of Phoenix zoning board denied a request to allow an independent group of Baptist laymen to build a shopping center and golf courses on property leased from the college.

The laymen plan to ask for a reversal of this ruling.

The 120 acres of land, not presently needed by the college, would have been invested to build up income for college endowment.

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Pastor's Wife Killed  
When Storm Hits Church

(3-16-61)

WEST PLAINS, Mo. (BP)--Mrs. J. A. Huddleston, wife of the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church near here, was killed when a tornado destroyed the church Sunday night, March 12.

The tornado hit the church about 8 p.m. as people gathered for the evening worship service. The church, affiliated with Missouri Baptist Convention, is in a rural area five miles north of West Plains.

The building was completely destroyed, according to a report from H. H. McGinty, editor of the Word and Way, Baptist state paper at Jefferson City, Mo. He said the congregation had little warning of the storm's coming.

Several other of the 30 members present were injured but none seriously. It has a membership of 60.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Huddleston is survived by a 4-year-old son. Funeral services were scheduled at First Baptist Church, West Plains, with burial at Thayer, Mo.

The tornado was one of several striking along the Missouri--Arkansas border that night bringing death, injury, property loss, and disrupted communications.

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Advice to Editors

(3-14-61)

Baker J. Cauthen has been added to the Religious Education Conference program at St. Louis. He will speak at the closing of the conference, 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 23. Topic: "Religious Education and Foreign Missions."

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Shawn Nuff!

(3-16-61)

THOMASVILLE, N. C. (BP)--Little Shawn Buckner, nine-hours-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Buckner, was enroled in the cradle roll of Rich Fork Baptist Church here by Pastor Sam O'Neal.

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Recreation Center  
For Bellevue, Memphis

MEMPHIS (BP)--A large recreation center featuring basketball, bowling, and skating is in the offing for members of Bellevue Baptist Church here.

The congregation of the nation's second-largest Southern Baptist church voted to build a \$350,000, two-story recreation center which also will provide facilities for ping-pong, arts and crafts, and hobbies.

Ramsey Pollard, church pastor and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the building will go up in 1962. He described it as part of Bellevue's greater Christian ministry to Memphis and a place where Christ will be introduced to visitors and friends of Bellevue members.

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New Orleans Offering  
Interconvention Study

(3-16-61)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A special-interest course in American Baptists-Southern Baptist relations will be taught during the first month of summer school at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary by Robert A. Baker.

Baker, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., will teach the church history course June 6-30.

"Dr. Baker has done a considerable amount of research in the area of relations between the various Baptist bodies in the United States and has written a one-volume work on the subject, 'relations between northern and southern Baptists.'

"In the light of recent discussions of relations between American Baptists, Southern Baptists and other Baptist groups, this course should be of interest to many of our present students as well as pastors and others active in our denomination," H. Leo Eddleman, New Orleans Seminary president, said.

Other Baker publications include "A Summary of Christian History" and "The Baptist March in History." He also served on the editorial board of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists.

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Gardner-Webb Professor  
To Become President

(3-16-61)

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--A professor at Gardner-Webb College here has been elevated to presidency of the Baptist junior college.

He is E. Eugene Poston, currently completing his second year as head of the college's department of religion. Poston will assume presidency Aug. 1 succeeding Philip L. Elliott, retiring after 18 years as the administrator.

The president-elect is 42, a native of nearby Shelby, N. C., and a graduate of Gardner-Webb (1943). He completed his education at Baptist-owned Wake Forest College in North Carolina, after which he secured a doctor of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Previous pastorates included First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., and churches in Kentucky while a seminary student.

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TO EDITORS: After use, Baptist Press would appreciate return of the photographs.

cutlines, Baptist Press Photos

March 16, 1961

- A. The Southern Baptist Convention will meet in Kiel Auditorium, pictured here, May 23-26 in St. Louis.
- B. The halls of decision for Southern Baptists at the 1961 Convention look like this--the interior of Kiel Auditorium, Convention meeting site.
- C. To a 'plane arriving from the east, St. Louis has this skyline. The Mississippi River in the foreground separates St. Louis, Mo., from East St. Louis, Ill. The bridge at right is Veterans Memorial Bridge. At left is Eads Bridge, with the top level for automobiles. Passenger trains arriving from the east and south use railroad tracks on the lower level of Eads Bridge.
- D. This statue is to St. Louis, for whom the city is named. It is a famous landmark in the city.
- E. St. Louis is famous for its zoo. Many messengers, especially those with children along, will find time before or after the Convention for a visit. The elephants there parade for onlookers.
- F. The Jewel Box, lighted at night, is another famous point in the city. It is a glassed-in conservatory for displays of flowers and plants. The Chamber of Commerce describes it as a "cathedral of waterfalls and flowers."
- G. The S. S. Admiral takes sightseers on a boat ride along the Mississippi River, from which they get a new vantage point on the city's skyline.

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March 16, 1961

### Arizona Senator Hits Baptists On School Aid

Special to Baptist Beacon

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.) aligned himself with Roman Catholics who are seeking public aid for parochial schools and he poked at the Baptists while doing so.

At a hearing by the Senate Subcommittee on Education (Mar. 15) Goldwater said that he had moral difficulty in agreeing that it is right to extract taxes from everybody (Episcopalians, Catholics, Baptists, all) and then in a general aid-to-education measure to refuse to give the money back to all.

Carefully pointing out that church colleges of most denominations had received Federal aid in the form of surplus Government property, war surpluses, housing loans and other forms of aid, Goldwater could not understand the objections to a provision for Federal loans to parochial schools in a Federal aid to education bill.

Goldwater's opposition to all Federal aid to education is well known, and although he vowed that he would not support legislation to hinder other legislation, he made it clear that it would not make him unhappy if the President's proposal for aid to education were killed.

(Many Washington observers feel that Roman Catholic insistence for aid to their schools may defeat all aid to education proposals.)

The Senator's remarks came during a discussion period following testimony by John Cornelius Hayes, president of the National Council of Catholic Men, who plead for long-term, low-interest loans for parochial schools.

Goldwater indicated to the hearing that he had no objection to church institutions being aided by distribution of Government surpluses and loans. He said that he was on the board of a Catholic hospital and an Episcopal hospital and that both of them had expanded with the help of Hill-Burton Government grants.

The Senator told the hearing that several years ago he had attempted to make some surplus Indian school land in Phoenix available to the Jesuits. "But unfortunately, I ran into the Baptists," he said.

The story behind the Senator's remarks is that when it became public information that the surplus Indian school property was being made available for the expansion of Brophy College, a Roman Catholic institution, the editor of the Baptist Beacon, W. Barry Garrett at the time, wrote an editorial and insisted that public lands be used for public purposes.

Both the City Parks Commission of Phoenix and the Board of Education were searching for additional land for the expansion of their public services. The surplus Indian school property would have been equally suitable for either of these purposes.

A duel in the Arizona Republic, the State's largest newspaper, between Goldwater and Garrett followed for the next several weeks, until it was announced that the offer of the surplus land to the Jesuit school was being withdrawn.

Today there stands on that same property on North Central Ave. one of the finest public high schools in the City of Phoenix.