

May 6, 1961

St. Louis A Foothold  
For Western Expanse

By Lloyd W. Collins

ST. LOUIS (BP)--One of the first two footholds for Baptists west of the Mississippi was in St. Louis County, Mo.

In spite of the fact that "no preacher of the gospel, save Catholic, was permitted by law to come into the province," a Baptist element existed around St. Louis when the United States bought Upper Louisiana in 1804.

The end of religious intolerance when the Louisiana Territory became United States property opened the way to gather the Baptist element together. Old Fee Fee Baptist Church was organized in 1807, with 17 members, the first non-Catholic church in St. Louis County, the second such church in Missouri. It's now a thriving church with modern facilities in suburban St. Louis.

A decade later, seven Baptist churches in the St. Louis area with 142 members organized the Missouri association and began operations with \$12.75 in the treasury.

The association organized the first missionary enterprise west of the Mississippi, sustained by annual \$5 contributions of members of the United Society for the Spread of the Gospel. The association's missionary spirit established churches in outlying areas and in 15 years was dismissing churches to form new associations.

While this missionary activity was going on, only one church existed in the city of St. Louis proper and it was dissolved in 1833. In the same year Baptist fortunes took a turn for the better in the organization of the second Baptist church. The new era with its emphasis on city missions produced several strong churches including the now-famous Third Baptist Church.

One of the early joint missionary activities of the Southern Baptist Convention and what is now the Missouri Baptist Convention was pastoral support for some of these churches, including Third Church.

In this era of progress, the old Missouri association became St. Louis Baptist Association. It developed in time a systematic city missions program and organized the St. Louis Baptist Mission Board in order to do mission work in St. Louis and the surrounding county.

A far cry from 1833 when St. Louis had only one Baptist church with 14 members, the association 100 years later had 40 churches with 20,105 members.

More phenomenal still is the record of the last 28 years which has brought the number of churches to 81 with 55,000 members. The association is the largest in Missouri. In 1960 its churches gave \$427,000 to world missions through the Cooperative Program and \$834,000 to all missions.

Baptist prospects in St. Louis are considered bright. St. Louis Baptists are cooperating with Missouri Baptists to establish a new college in the St. Louis area. They have just approved a long-range program in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board to build a rescue mission. It will be the first in the Southern Baptist Convention built from the beginning with rescue mission ministry in mind.

The St. Louis Baptist Mission Board is now accelerating its program for purchase and development of mission sites and considering the establishment of goodwill centers, a student center building, and a fulltime recreation-athletic director.

The mission board is located in the St. Louis Baptist Building, across the street from Third Baptist Church, at Grand and Washington, under the leadership of an executive secretary and a staff of workers in education, student work, work with National Baptists and Jewish work.

EDITORS: This is another in the series of definition articles on agency programs.

Education Commission  
Central Data Source

By the Baptist Press

The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has a major responsibility for conducting studies of higher education in the denomination, recruiting teachers for Baptist colleges and serving as a central source of information about Baptist schools.

These duties are outlined in a proposed program of the agency, which will be offered to messengers at the 1961 Convention session in St. Louis for their approval.

The definition of the Education Commission's task has been prepared by the Executive Committee of the SBC. It is the Executive Committee which will present the matter in St. Louis. If this definition is approved, it will be printed in a manual containing programs of all Convention agencies.

Among the studies the Education Commission should conduct are those in curriculum and administrative matters, enrolment trends both in Baptist schools and in other colleges and universities, recruiting students and teachers for the 71 Southern Baptist schools and those in which it gives advice to the school making the survey.

It should provide material bringing together the views of leaders in Christian higher education, such as the Southern Baptist Educator, which it now publishes monthly.

It should work directly with state conventions in planning higher education advances. (The commission itself operates no schools; except for six SBC seminaries which themselves are separate agencies, schools are financed by state Baptist groups.) It should also work directly with individual schools in institutes, workshops and conferences.

It should keep abreast of major trends in higher education, informing Baptist educators of significant developments. It would encourage Baptist young people in a desire to teach in Baptist colleges. It would take advantage of numerous opportunities to press the claims of the teaching profession.

It would continue to organize the annual Conventionwide emphasis on Christian higher education. It would maintain an up-to-date Campus Directory of Southern Baptist Schools as requested and financed by the colleges.

The Education Commission also would provide liaison between Baptist colleges and the agencies of the SBC having specialized vocational choice programs. It would help relate Southern Baptist colleges to these programs.

Its objective, as stated, would be:

"The Education Commission shall assist the Southern Baptist Convention in the propagation of the gospel by (1) constantly apprising Southern Baptists as to the objectives, needs, and values of Christian higher education especially as it is related to and needed in the provision of Christian leaders for the Christian enterprise; (2) conducting varied services to enable schools and colleges to function more in the affairs of the denomination, and to maintain a higher degree of efficiency in their educational undertakings. Pursuit of this objective should be with the conviction that Baptist interests should be served in Baptist schools and colleges, under Baptist ownership and control, and supported all or in part by Baptist tithes and offerings."

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Wake Forest May Admit  
Some Negro Students

(5-6-61)

WINSTON-SALEM N. C. (BP)--Wake Forest College here will admit qualified students of all races to three graduate schools if the deans and faculties of these schools agree.

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Trustees of the college, operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, adopted this policy. However, they deferred the live question of admitting a 19-year-old African who had applied for undergraduate study.

There was no immediate indication any Negro graduate students are on the waiting list for entry.

Edward Reynolds, 19, of Ghana, one of the new independent nations of Africa, may have precipitated trustee action with his application for admission, even though as an undergraduate he won't benefit from the new policy.

The three graduate schools operated by Wake Forest College are its school of medicine, law school and new division of graduate studies.

Had the African applicant been a girl, Meredith College, another senior Baptist college in the state, would have opened its doors, it was reported. The senior girls' school in Raleigh has a policy of admitting students from countries where Southern Baptists have had overseas missionary work.

The state convention has asked its colleges to give "careful" individual consideration to eliminating racial barriers in determining student admissions policy.

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Strategies Mapped For  
Aid To Church Schools

(5-6-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.), Senate Democratic whip, announced plans to expand the present National Defense Education Act to provide federal loans to private schools for classroom construction.

After a leadership meeting at the White House, Senate leaders decided to introduce legislation to expand the existing law rather than sponsoring a separate bill to provide across-the-board loans to private schools.

The National Defense Education Act provides federal loans to private schools for special classroom equipment and for minor remodeling of space needed for such equipment. Plans to expand the present law include loans for special classroom construction for teaching of science, mathematics and languages.

In separate action, the Senate subcommittee on education approved the administration's program of federal aid to public elementary and secondary schools. The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), ordered the bill favorably reported with no attempt to include aid to private schools.

The bill now goes to the full Senate committee on labor and public welfare. Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), the only subcommittee member to vote against the administration's bill, said he will try in the full committee to include federal loans for church and other private schools.

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Raley Named To New  
Post Of Chancellor

(5-6-61)

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--After 27 years as president of Oklahoma Baptist University here, John W. Raley has been elevated to the new post of chancellor effective June 1.

As such, he will direct development and endowment with general concern for off-campus relationships. He will also work with the Oklahoma Independent College Foundation.

Legal responsibilities will still be vested in the president, whose duties are unchanged. Chancellor and Mrs. Raley will continue to live on campus, and his office will be in the new John W. Raley Memorial Chapel.

The nominating committee hoped to report later in May on a president.

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"I feel such a move is wise at this time," Raley said, "because of the unusual strength of our staff and department heads. The continued rotation of younger men to positions of leadership is our guarantee that OBU can go on."

In his tenure, Raley has seen the campus grow from four buildings to 24 with present evaluation of \$8 million. Its endowment has increased from \$41,000 to \$2 million.

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Midwestern Graduates  
Typify Seminary Today

(5-6-61)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The first graduating class--in 1961--at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here in many ways typifies the present day at the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Midwestern is the newest one. Because the Convention limits its work to theology, all of its 56 students have majored in this area. The seminary offered no advanced degrees. All of the graduates got the bachelor of divinity degree. In this respect, it differs from its five sister schools, but other characteristics are similar.

Three of the grads have been chosen by the Convention's Home Mission Board. Accompanied by their wives, these men go to their new places of service.

Although women have enrolled at Midwestern, none was in the graduating class. Only three of the men were single.

One of the single men in the class, James E. Schneider of St. Louis, will enter evangelistic work. R. Wayne Harper, also of St. Louis, wants to become a Navy chaplain.

Those selected for Home Mission Board service will work in areas of the United States called the growing edge of Southern Baptists. Orlynn R. Evans of Columbia, Mo., will work in Iowa. Elmer M. Hatfield of Gorin, Mo., will work in the northern states. New York City is the spot for Robert E. Hildreth of Opelika, Ala.

Several other graduates will serve at least two years in Baptist pulpits to qualify, on the basis of experience, for foreign mission appointments.

At least 46 of the graduates held pastorates while studying at Midwestern, including William L. Blake of Memphis, the only Negro among the degree-winners.

Nearly all of these will continue as pastors, many staying with the same churches they served while students.

Midwestern's first commencement did not embody any novel ideas or start any new traditions. "We are using the standard form that has been general through the years. We are also not awarding any honorary degrees yet," commented Seminary President Millard J. Berquist of Kansas City.

"We started with a chair, a desk, a secretary, and a president in December, 1957," Berquist added. The seminary now occupies a 99-acre campus on the northern outskirts of Kansas City with four brand new buildings and more to come--especially housing.

Calvary Baptist Church of Kansas City, across town from the seminary's present site along a busy trafficway, offered use of its education building while the campus was being selected and developed.

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Ouachita Will Grant  
Honorary Degrees

ARKADEKPHIA Ark. (BP)--Ouachita Baptist College here will confer honorary degrees on three persons at its spring commencement.

One, the doctor of laws, will be conferred on Marvin A. Green, Stephens, Ark., former chairman of Ouachita's trustees. Green is an oil producer.

Another doctor of laws degree will be conferred on Miss Emma C. Riley of Little Rock. Now retired, Miss Riley was a schoolteacher and also worked in office of the Arkansas Secretary of State. She too was a member of Ouachita trustees at one time.

The doctor of divinity degree will go to Loyce Neil Nelson, Texarkana, Missionary to Japan.

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Folks and Facts.....

(5-5-61)

.....Carlos J. R. Smith, administrator of the hospital at Helena, Ark., was installed as president of Midwest Hospital Association succeeding C. E. Copeland, St. Louis, administrator, Missouri Baptist Hospital. The association met in Kansas City, Mo. (BP)

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.....John R. Sampey Jr., professor of chemistry at Furman University (Baptist), Greenville, S. C., has been selected as one of the six recipients of the 1961 national college chemistry teacher awards by the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc. (BP)

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.....T. Sloane Guy Jr., New Orleans, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Hospitals, will be the featured speaker when the Southern Baptist Chaplains Association holds its meeting at 1:30 P. M., Thursday, May 25, in St. Louis. The chaplains are among many professional groups meeting during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP)

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.....The congregation of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C., accepted unanimously a request from their pastor, Ralph A. Herring, that he be relieved of duties as their pastor July 1. Herring has been with the Winston-Salem church for 25 years and wants to devote more time to writing, teaching in Bible conferences and evangelism. (BP)

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