

May 13, 1961

**Howe, Okla., Tornado
Destroys New Church**

HOWE, Okla. (BP)--A tornado demolished the new building of the Howe Baptist Church less than two days before it was to be dedicated. The storm killed 16 persons and injured more than 50 in this southeastern Oklahoma town and a nearby community of Reichert.

Ron Lewis, 24, Howe Baptist pastor, crouched behind the only wall of the church building left standing by the storm, clutching his eight-month-old daughter. They were uninjured. The parsonage, next to the church, was swept away. Mrs. Lewis was out of town at the time.

"It sounded like four freight trains at once," said Lewis. "I could see my daughter's mouth moving and she was shaking--I knew she was screaming, but I c uldn't hear a thing."

The building had been constructed chiefly by donated labor of church members.

"With God's help, we'll rebuild," said Lewis. "We'll be dedicating a new Baptist church in another six months."

This town of 500 population was damaged extensively. The Methodist Church building was destroyed. The Assembly of God Church building escaped with minor damage.

The tornado struck here one year from the day another tornado ripped across Wilburton, not far from here.

Calvary Baptist Church building at Wilburton was demolished in that storm and seven persons in the church building were among those killed. Calvary Church dedicated a new structure just two months ago to replace the one blown away.

Buildings of four Oklahoma Baptist churches have been destroyed or heavily-damaged by tornadoes during the past 12 months.

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**Wet Spring, Chilly
Air For St. Louis**

(5-13-61)

ST. LOUIS (BP)--St. Louis has experienced a wet spring, with still a chill in the air.

If this continues, Conventioneer for the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention should be prepared. While a topcoat probably isn't necessary in late May, you may need some protection from rain or evening cold.

Warm clothes, even winter suits, have been popular through the first 10 days of May as Ole Man Winter tries to have one last fling before yielding to the hot summer months.

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EDITORS: Since opposition is developing to the recommendation that Brotherhood Commission furnish liaison with Boy Scouts of America for God and Country Awards, this information is being supplied before you leave for St. Louis.

Why the Scout Liaison Proposal is Recommended

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted at its February, 1961 meeting a recommendation to be presented to the St. Louis Convention concerning the Boy Scouts of America. The Brotherhood Commission, SBC agency, would be asked to provide service to pastors of Southern Baptist churches and boys in these churches seeking to earn a God and Country Award, denoting a Scout's spiritual development.

In working for the award, the Scout passes through three stages. In one stage he gives evidence of regular personal devotions, stewardship, knowledge of religious life and other such information. This information may be of a general religious nature (not oriented to any denomination) or it may be oriented specifically toward a denomination (Southern Baptists included) if such information is available.

Another stage of the award is for the applicant to write a 1000-word essay about an ordination or dedication service in the church. In another stage, the Scout explains church ordinances and practices.

There was the conviction it would be better if the Scout had access to Baptist-oriented material instead of only to general religious material, if the Scout were a Baptist boy or in a troop sponsored by a Baptist church. This would tie him to his denomination rather than possibly lead him to different religious interests.

Roman Catholics, Jewish Groups, Episcopalians and other faiths have specially-oriented material available for their Scouts working for this award. Baptists have none planned on a denominational scale. A Texas Baptist layman, now retired, has voluntarily aided to the best of his ability boys working toward the award, to assure a Baptist-oriented study. Because of advancing years, he can not carry this on indefinitely.

The Brotherhood Commission was felt to be the logical agency of the Convention to handle this matter, giving information on request from pastors and Scouts. There were three reasons:

1. ³⁰⁰⁰ It would give continuity ^{20,000-40,000} to the informational help about Baptist life. There are ~~7291~~ Scout troops (with 200,000 boys) sponsored by local Southern Baptist churches. Annually, only Roman Catholics exceed Baptists in the number of Scouts working for God and Country Awards.

2. There would not be "competition" with existing Brotherhood work for boys--the Royal Ambassadors. The Convention recommendation states at least twice the commission shall not promote Scout work. Having the liaison with the commission itself would be added assurance Scout work would not be promoted by the denomination or any agency. It accepts, however, the realistic fact there is no way to prevent Baptist churches from having Boy Scout troops with Baptist boys working toward God and Country Awards. It was felt the best thing was to have Baptist material available for them at a recognized place.

3. From time to time there are opportunities for Baptist participation in various projects of the Boy Scouts of America, such as assignment of Baptist chaplains to state, national and international camps and jamborees. At present, there is no liaison between Southern Baptists and the national office of Boy Scouts of America to effect such relationships.

Representatives from the SBC Brotherhood Commission met with the Executive Committee Dec. 17, 1960 and agreed to the wording of the recommendation. These included George W. Schroeder, Brotherhood executive secretary, and Eddie Hurt Jr., associate secretary, both of Memphis.

The commission is not requested (repeat not) to promote Scouts on a national, state or local level; to have state Scout committees; to alter its present Ambassador program; to provide any assistance to Scout units as such, or to get out any publicity for Boy Scouts except that information for God and Country Awards may be obtained by contacting the Brotherhood Commissions.

Also attending the December discussion was Joe Carrington of Austin, Tex., who has handled Scout contacts on an individual basis previously.

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Baptist Press

Louisville Dean Says
Entry Pleas Increase

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here said there is a 36 per cent increase over last year in applications for entry from incoming first-year students.

Hugh Peterson of Louisville said at the corresponding time one year ago Southern Seminary had accepted 156 applicants. To date this year, he reported 202 applicants for September admission. "The increase is uniform over each of Southern's three schools--religious education, church music and theology," according to Peterson.

With 45 persons holding faculty status and 23 more serving as instructors, the school administration reported the best student-faculty ratio in its 101 years of life. It had 1168 students this year, for a ratio of 19 to 1.

The administrative dean stated this ratio, coupled with new classroom facilities at the seminary, means it can adequately handle a larger incoming class.

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Watch Those Rush-Hour
No Parking Zone Signs

(5-13-61)

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Drivers to St. Louis for the Convention, watch out for the no parking zones on streets during morning and evening rush hours.

As in most big cities, these are tow-in zones if police catch you parked there from 7 to 9 A.M. and from 4 to 6 P.M. Cars will be towed in and drivers will not only have a parking ticket but a towing charge to pay for.

Police also warn motorists: Do not leave valuables inside your cars even though locked. Also, women pedestrians at night should be accompanied by someone, they should not go along the streets alone, police caution.

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Board Distributes
Mission Travel Guide

(5-13-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--A guide to many of the Southern Baptist mission points in the United States, Cuba and Panama has been published by the Home Mission Board of the denomination.

Titled "Make Yours a Mission Vacation," the guide was distributed to approximately 35,000 ministers, education directors and denominational workers as a part of the May leadership edition of Home Missions Magazine.

Reprints of the guide are available on request at 161 Spring St. N. W., Atlanta 3, Ga.

Included in the guide are names and addresses of mission points, a large map spotting the places, a list of historical locations and pictures and addresses of many Southern Baptist leaders of agencies.

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