

April 4, 1962

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

New Mexico Brothers
Launch German Work

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

WIESBADEN, Germany (BP)--Herman and Herbert Stout are identical twin Baptist pastors of two Southern Baptist churches in Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.

The New Mexico brothers were chaplains' assistants in Germany when the war ended. They helped conduct Sunday schools for the disillusioned, lost German youngsters who flocked eagerly to Bible classes.

Discharged and returned to America, the Stouts could not forget those German children. They completed their college and seminary training, telling of their German experiences at every opportunity. Our mission board had no work in Germany, but the Stouts were convinced God was calling them to Germany.

When they had saved enough money for one family to depart, Herman and his family sailed from New York.

In Wiesbaden, speaking no German, Herman and Beverly Stout realized they were not ready to assist with German Baptist work.

"Start a Bible class for us!" a Southern Baptist soldier stationed in Germany pleaded. "We need Baptist fellowship!"

Located among the thousands of English-speaking people living in that area, this class of Baptists grew. People were led to Christ. The need for a church became imperative.

The Americans purchased a building, remodeled it and became a fully graded church, using Southern Baptist literature.

Meanwhile, Herbert Stout's family arrived and led in similar work in Frankfurt. Today Southern Baptist churches and missions dot Germany and other parts of Europe.

These Americans assist in establishing and financing new churches and missions for the indigent peoples who are their hosts.

The Foreign Mission Board has appointed Mr. and Mrs. James G. Stertz, as fraternal representatives to coordinate this work between American and German Baptists. We have awakened to this unique opportunity to use as missionaries lay Baptists abroad, who are stirred by the needs they see around them.

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Cutline

Herman Stout of Wiesbaden Germany

April 4, 1962

California Baptists
Plan For Next Century

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--"Winning California to Christ" dominates the purposes of Southern Baptist leaders in the Golden State which will be hosting the 1962 Convention here in June.

Southern Baptists will be meeting in the Far West for the second time. This year's host city--San Francisco--was the Convention site in 1951.

People in California are becoming aware of Southern Baptists. A Los Angeles Times writer described the denomination as "the fastest growing major sect in California."

One leader in the state is predicting the denomination will be largest in California by end of the century.

"I have every reason to believe that Southern Baptists will be the largest denomination in California," said W. A. Carleton, dean and vice-president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

J. Kelly Simmons, Fresno, editor of the statewide newsmagazine, the California Southern Baptist, agrees with Carleton.

The Southern Baptist General Convention of California, a statewide body, was organized Sept. 13, 1940, with 13 churches totalling 1,038 members. Now 900 churches and missions are affiliated with the convention, having over 165,000 members.

State leaders have as a goal establishment of 100 new missions during 1962.

Headed by Grady C. Cothen of Fresno as executive secretary, the state convention has work with various language groups, including Latin-Americans, Portuguese, Russians, Japanese, Chinese, Indians, Koreans, international students, Hungarians and Italians.

The state convention operates California Baptist College in Riverside, Sunny Crest Children's Home at Bakersfield and a subsidiary corporation, California Baptist Foundation.

People are moving into the state of California at the rate of 36,000 a month. It is predicted by some that in 10 years California's population will lead the nation. Conservative estimates place California's population in 30 years at more than 35 million people.

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89 Days Gone, 1 To Go
-Then A 'Miracle' Came

(4-4-62)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--There are some, of course, who would not see a miracle in the events which have recently involved J. T. McGill of New Orleans.

But then few see as many daily miracles in reclaimed lives as does McGill, who is superintendent of the Baptist Rescue Mission here.

This particular miracle involved the need for a new building. The old one on Esplanade Ave. needed enlarging and repairing, but city restrictions blocked the way.

The mission is owned and operated by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, and when the request came to the Atlanta office for a new building, approval was given. There was one stipulation--the old building must be sold first.

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The for sale sign went up, and McGill went shopping for a building.

A very suitable, six-story structure at 201 Magazine St. appeared to meet every present need, plus providing for future expansion. The owner agreed to a 90-day option.

The weeks passed into months, and still the old building did not sell. Finally, 89 days had passed. McGill was speaking during the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions at the Gentilly Baptist Church in New Orleans. He told the congregation of his needs and hopes.

After the service one of the members said, "I'll buy your present building, restore it to its original design, and then resell it. All over the purchase price I get for the building, I will give to the Home Mission Board."

McGill was overwhelmed. This was his first time to meet the man, who was neither acquainted with rescue mission work nor had he seen the building. A phone call the next morning started the process of buying and selling.

"Needless to say, I saw in a very strong way how God works in mysterious ways," McGill commented. "This has taught me never to give up but to have faith in God's providence."

The new mission, which will open Sept. 1 as the Baptist Center, will have enlarged ministry with 350 beds and the space to expand to 500. Meanwhile, the rescue mission will continue at the old location.

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Tokyo Seminary
Honors Chaplain

(4-4-62)

FUCHU AIR STATION, Japan (BP)--Chaplain Henry C. Pennington, staff chaplain of Fifth Air Force and a native of Texas, has been awarded an honorary degree of doctor of divinity by the Tokyo Union Theological Seminary at Mitaka.

His spiritual contributions to Japanese-American friendship were basis for bestowing the honor.

Col. Pennington, of Riverside, Calif., an active chaplain since 1941, has been with the Fifth Air Force headquarters at Fuchu Air Station for the past two years. He is scheduled to leave in June for a new assignment as commandant of the U. S. Air Force Chaplains School at Lackland Air Force Base, Tex.

He is a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist) in Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

In conferring the honorary degree, the seminary said that "this academic honor will serve as recognition not only of the service you have rendered here in your profession, but of the new and important responsibilities you have been called upon to undertake."

The degree was also termed a "fitting expression of our appreciation" of the interest which military chaplains have shown to the seminary and to the furtherance of spiritual relationships between Japanese and Americans.

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South Carolina Downs
Liquor Referendum Try

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--The South Carolina General Assembly closed its annual session here after strengthening the state's Sunday blue laws and burying a Baptist-led drive for a liquor referendum.

The blue laws bill, aimed frankly at the "open Sunday" policy of the nationwide discount department store chains, increased the fine for illegal Sunday business operations from \$1 to \$250. Second offenders will draw \$500 penalties.

Even in killing the liquor referendum, a large majority of the legislators, sensitive to the election year, managed to go on record as favoring it.

The House voted 72 to 25 to authorize a bone-dry referendum after tacking on an amendment calling for a simultaneous vote on open bars. (The state now has a package store law under which the minimum purchase is a half pint and drinking outside a man's home is illegal.)

Passed by the lower house late in the session, the bill landed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. On the next to the last day for statewide business, a motion to recall the bill to the Senate floor failed to muster the required three-fourths majority.

The real question raised by the members appeared not to be whether to kill the bill, but by what method to perform the deed!

The campaign for the referendum was launched last November when the South Carolina Baptist Convention passed a resolution calling for such and authorized appointment of a five-man committee to coordinate efforts toward that end.

A committee of ministers was named. One member, Ray Jones, Camden pastor, created a storm after a newspaper published an account of his sermon which allegedly described many legislators as "yellow," "half-drunk" and given to taking "payoffs."

Both houses of the legislature passed resolutions roundly censuring Jones, whereupon he tendered his "humble and abject apologies."

However, Jones told Baptist Press that he was apologizing for what the legislators thought he said, rather than for what he actually said in his sermon. Some of his published remarks were subject to misunderstanding and misconstruction when taken out of context, he explained.

Jones said his "yellow" statement was a generalized quote from a prominent Baptist leader. His "payoff" reference, he added, was a quote from a legislator to the effect that present laws were more likely to result in payoffs than would a prohibition statute. And his "half-drunk" reference involved only two men, he added.

The youthful Camden pastor said the legislature was flouting a basic democratic principle by refusing to allow the people to vote on the liquor question.

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SBC First Quarter
Up 9.7 Per Cent

(4-4-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention share of Cooperative Program receipts for the first quarter of 1962 ran 9.7 per cent over the same quarter in 1961.

Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville announced total collections of \$4,640,595 for the first three months of 1962, compared with \$4,230,125 the year before.

Designated funds for the first quarter of this year have come to \$9,083,864 against \$8,109,461 for a like period of 1961. This is a gain of 12.02 per cent for the three-month span. This counts designations only for Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

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Baptist Press

On a monthly basis, March receipts for the SBC share of the Cooperative Program came to \$1,415,293 compared with \$1,523,040 in February and \$1,402,784 in March, 1961.

Designations for nationwide agencies came to \$1,763,101 in March compared with \$4,941,359 in February and \$1,804,865 the previous March.

Funds reported do not include those used for state Baptist convention work nor for local church expenses.

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