

July 29, 1962

Research Center
To Tackle Issues

LOUISVILLE (BP)--When more and more Americans are joining churches, why is there less active participation in the churches?

A new seminary research and education project here will study this dilemma as one of its first undertakings. The four-pronged program has been set up as a foundation project for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

It will involve both ministers and laymen. Seminary officials say the center will be a first-time combined layman's and minister's program for a Southern Baptist seminary.

"A permanent Southern Seminary Conference and Research Center has been established to schedule programs beginning this fall with a year of experimental studies," Clarence Manning, Richmond, chairman of the Southern Seminary Foundation, said.

The center, he added, will have distinct programs of research, layman's spiritual development conferences, continuing theological studies for ministers, and institutes and workshops for teachers, denominational workers and others.

Two other studies will greet the new project:

What are the feelings of laymen toward ministers and the feelings of ministers toward laymen?

How can a church best organize to meet spiritual needs in the space age?

Five small groups of laymen will be invited here for spiritual development studies and discussions during the experimental years. They will attend seminars on theology and doctrine. They will also consider how to apply Christian ethics to situations in their business and professional life.

Pastors will join laymen in some conferences.

Four renewal and refresher courses for ordained ministers will be held for one-week and two-week periods during the year. Approximately 10 institutes and workshops are scheduled for denominational workers and church staffers. Some will be cosponsored by other Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Most of the teaching will be done by seminary professors. Professors and graduate students will undertake the research. Leonard L. Holloway, Louisville, executive assistant to the seminary president, will direct the center.

Four members of the seminary faculty will serve as programmers for the new experiment--C. Penrose St. Amant, dean of theology; Allen W. Graves, dean of religious education; Wayne E. Oates, professor of psychology of religion, and Ernest J. Loessner, professor of religious education.

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CORRECTION

(7-29-62)

A typographical error appeared in Folks and Facts, page 2, dated 7-26-62. The figure in line 3 should be \$90,000 rather than \$900,000. Please delete the extra cipher. Thank you.

Baptist Press, Nashville

-30-

Hungarian Baptists
Plan 90th Anniversary

BUDAPEST (BP)--Hungarian Baptists are planning to celebrate their 90th anniversary next year.

The first witness by Baptists came in 1846. Three young Hungarians returned from Hamburg, Germany, where they had been converted and baptized. Though they won a few converts, this work was not permanent.

Continuous Baptist history begins with the arrival of Heinrich Meyer in Budapest in 1873. Meyer became the pioneer Baptist missionary and organizer in the country.

Baptists today operate a theological seminary. The Baptist Union's new hymnal has been highly praised by Protestant groups in Hungary, according to reports reaching the European Baptist Press Service office in Switzerland.

A Reformed Church clergyman declared that church music is more highly developed among Baptists than among others in Hungary.

Pastors and lay workers held their semiannual conference this summer also. They discussed Bible themes, church work and peace movements, it was reported.

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Folks and Facts.....

(7-29-62)

....."We Preach Christ" has been picked as theme for the 1963 session of the American Baptist Convention. It will meet in Detroit May 15-19. The Convention scripture will be 1 Cor. 1:23-24. (BP)

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.....C. Kenneth Hill, director of activities and youth work for the First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Tex., has been named director of alumni affairs and scholarships at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex. Hill, a graduate of Hardin-Simmons, succeeds Truett Latimer, who has accepted a position as director of public relations for the Texas Real Estate Association in Austin, Tex. (BP)

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Lightning Bolt Causes
Baptist Church Blaze

(7-29-62)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A bolt of lightning set off a fire that did \$75,000 damage to the B. H. Carroll Baptist Church here.

A witness reported seeing lightning hit the church shortly after midnight during a severe electrical storm over the Fort Worth-Dallas area.

The three-alarm blaze was not brought under control until 2:30 a.m., and firemen worked until about 6 o'clock cleaning up the church.

Pastor B. Condred Pirkle said the fire destroyed the three-year-old auditorium that seated 500 and heavily damaged the roof of the two-year-old education building.

All equipment and furniture in the auditorium was destroyed or badly damaged.

The brick veneer walls of the auditorium were left standing, but Pirkle said one side of the building was too weak to use in rebuilding.

The congregation will be able to handle Sunday school meetings in the remaining education space, but hopes for a place for worship services are a little more dismal, the pastor said.

A possibility, he said, might be to hold an early service in the auditorium of a neighboring church.

The church had about \$45,000 worth of insurance coverage. Once the insurance settlement is made, we will begin to rebuild, Pirkle said.

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