

August 19, 1962

**Florida Church Asks  
For Space Chaplains**

COCOA, Fla. (BP)--Space-conscious members of First Baptist Church here, living adjacent to Cape Canaveral, have sent this note to Southern Baptist Convention agencies:

"We're concerned that Southern Baptists select, qualify and train men as chaplains to go along on manned space flights."

The church's business meeting action came following a suggestion from its chairman of deacons, Donald E. Eppert, a retired Army officer and resident engineer working on launching pad construction at the Cape.

James A. Sawyer, pastor, in reporting the church's action, said members of the Cocoa church believe the time is coming when there'll be regular flights into space for extended periods of time--days or weeks. A chaplain should be along on such space voyages, they feel.

"Such a chaplain would have to meet exacting physical standards met by our astronauts, we believe," Sawyer continued. "He will have to understand the relationship of science and religion...be a man who can cope with the unexpected, since we don't know what we may find in space."

The chaplains, he guessed, will probably come from the military because of the training they must receive. At present, the Cocoa church knows of no denomination getting ministers ready to be space chaplains. Nor do the members know of any preachers getting ready for the undertaking, he reported.

"This is one reason we brought it up. We don't want this phase (the selection and training of space chaplains) to be neglected," Sawyer said.

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**Dick McCartney Named  
Dallas Region Editor**

(9-19-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--R. T. (Dick) McCartney has been appointed regional editor for the Dallas office of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

McCartney is director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas there.

Announcing McCartney's appointment, W. C. Fields of Nashville, director of Baptist Press, said:

"As a cooperative news service, Baptist Press depends on the skills of many people, the regional editors being among the most important. We are happy to have as head of the Dallas office a man of the broad experience of Dick McCartney."

The Dallas office covers news in the Texas convention and of the Southern Baptist Convention agencies in Dallas and Fort Worth.

Other Baptist Press regional offices are located in Washington and in Atlanta. The central office of the service is at Nashville.

McCartney, a former director of public relations for Oklahoma Baptists, succeeds Lloyd Wright who left Dallas to join the public relations staff of the Peace Corps in Washington.

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Kersh New Oklahoma  
Hospitals Director

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--William G. (Bill) Kersh of Muskogee, Okla., has been elected director of hospitals and golden age homes for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma here.

He will succeed Tom E. Carter of Oklahoma City, who has joined the staff of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma.

Kersh resigned as administrator of Oklahoma Baptist Hospital in Muskogee to become statewide director. The change was to be effective Sept. 1.

Before going to the Muskogee institution in 1961, Kersh was administrator of Southwest Baptist Hospital in Mangum and at Grand Valley (Baptist) Hospital in Pryor, both Oklahoma cities.

He studied hospital administration at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

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Irwin To Head Survey  
Work For Home Board

(9-19-62)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention picked Leonard G. Irwin of Atlanta to head its survey work.

The action, taken during the mid-year meeting of the board here, follows the resignation of Billy T. Hargrove, also of Atlanta, to take pastorate of Southern Baptist Temple in Phoenix, Ariz.

Irwin has served for two years as the associate secretary of the department of survey and special studies and will now have the title of secretary.

In making the announcement, Arthur Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the division of missions, said: "Irwin is well qualified to lead us in this field. His experience the past two years make him the logical choice for this important and demanding work. Irwin's replacement will be announced at an early date."

Irwin, a native of Pensacola, Fla., was employed as a research specialist in the department. He has made special studies in mission work as well as directed many of the mammoth surveys taken by the department.

Under the direction of Hargrove, the survey work of the mission board has received national attention with huge surveys in metropolitan centers and entire states. The methods have been accepted by many religious groups in the nation.

Irwin was formerly pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Panama City, Fla. He holds a degree in church history and age group studies from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also received an engineering degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, and served as pastor for 3-1/2 years.

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101 Cubans Resettled  
By Southern Baptists

(9-19-62)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Southern Baptists have resettled only 101 Cuban refugees, or 27 families, according to a report to the denomination's Home Mission Board at its mid-year meeting here.

The denomination launched this year a program of relief and resettlement for the Cubans who have fled Castro's brand of Communism at the rate of more than 1,600 a week. More than 140,000 have flooded Miami's limited resources.

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Supervising the resettlement ministry in Miami is missionary Robert Fricke, who also indicated that his office is working with 20 other churches concerned with resettling a family.

Baptists in two cities, Corpus Christi, Tex., and Atlanta have resettled families --nine in Corpus Christi and three in the Georgia capital.

The mission board also appointed field worker R. G. Van Royen of Dallas to enlist state conventions in organizing for a massive thrust in resettlement and relief.

He announced nearly all state conventions now have committees. The states have also set a time in which they will ask churches to send clothing to the refugees.

The board earlier appropriated \$20,000 in emergency funds to establish the ministry, and \$50,000 of the denomination's special home mission offering, sponsored annually by the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Convention, was marked for Latin American relief and resettlement. Reports indicate the offering goal will be reached.

Fricke said churches need to assure him of three things to receive a family (1) that housing will be provided, (2) that food will be assured the family and (3) that other needs will be provided, such as work, schooling, etc., after their arrival.

The federal government pays transportation for the family to its destination.

Churches interested can contact their Latin Refugee Committees at their state Baptist offices or Robert Fricke at Miami.

While helping Cuban refugees in the United States, the mission board also continues its mission program in Cuba, supporting six missionaries and nearly 145 national pastors and church workers. The Southern Baptist mission force is the largest Protestant force in Cuba today.

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#### Home Board Further Liberalizes Loans

(9-19-62)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Another step in liberalizing church loans offered by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention was taken by the board here in extending the term of loans from a maximum of 10 years to 15.

Earlier this year, the board had extended its limit on the amount of loans from \$25,500 to \$50,000. The action was taken at the meeting of the board, which heard the executive secretary, Courts Redford of Atlanta, announce a total of \$10,931,211 in loan funds.

Redford also said the board has sold \$1,047,200 in church bonds since September. The board had established a funded reserve of \$250,850 to help support the sale of church bonds held by the board.

"The demand for these bonds, backed by the funded reserve, continues to increase," Redford said. "It is thought that the sales may accelerate even more as the plan of support for these bonds becomes better known."

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#### Home Mission Building Name Honors Leaders

(9-19-62)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has honored two long-time mission leaders in naming the eight-story office building in Atlanta the Lawrence-Garrison building.

The men so honored are J. B. Lawrence of Atlanta, who was executive secretary of the mission board for 24 years, from 1929 to 1953, and G. Frank Garrison of Atlanta, director of the division of church loans, a former president of the Home Mission Board.

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Garrison has served, as a staff member and as a board member, a total of 31 years.

It was while Lawrence was executive secretary and Garrison was president of the board that the property at the well-known address of 161 Spring St., N. W., Atlanta, was bought and enlarged. The value of the property, a million dollars when purchased, has increased to between \$1-1/2 and \$2 million.

The board presently uses only about half of the eight floor building for its offices and leases the remainder to commercial firms.

Garrison, the only one of the two present when the action was taken, said, "I am surprised and grateful. What I have done in these 31 years I have done out of a heart of love for a Saviour who took me as a teenage boy and set my feet on a rock upon which I have tried to stand through the years."

Lawrence, now 91 years old and still active in writing and preaching occasionally, said in Atlanta, "I feel highly honored and appreciate the fact that Mr. Garrison has been named with me. He was my right hand man in securing the Home Mission Board building."

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Glen Braswell Asked  
To Lead Colorado

(9-19-62)

DENVER (BP)--The executive board of Colorado Baptist General Convention here has unanimously elected Glen E. Braswell, a local pastor, as its executive secretary-treasurer.

Braswell, pastor of South Denver Baptist Church, has not announced whether he will accept the call, according to Harvey Nelson of Denver, board chairman.

A native of Checotah, Okla., the 43-year-old Braswell came to the Denver church in 1957 from the First Southern Baptist Church of Billings, Mont. The Montana work is a part of the six-state area served by the Colorado convention.

Educated at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Braswell has also served churches in Weatherford and Amber, Okla.; and Fort Worth and Merkel, Tex.

The Billings church was the first Southern Baptist work in Montana. Colorado Convention also works in the states of Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska (western part only).

An Army chaplain during World War II, Braswell served in the United States and in Europe.

He is presently a member of the Colorado convention executive board and its historical secretary. He was president of the convention in 1959-60.

Willis J. Ray, present executive secretary, retires Oct. 15.

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