

August 25, 1962

**Alaska Accepts Joint
State Missions Plan**

VALDEZ, Alaska (BP)--The annual Alaska Baptist Convention meeting here agreed to join the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in an arrangement to support missionaries in the 49th state.

Beginning Jan. 1, missionaries will be jointly employed by the state and the Home Mission Board. The plan is similar to that worked out in the last few years by the Home Mission Board and other states.

The items shared in by the two groups will be divided in this manner--95 per cent furnished by the SBC agency and 5 per cent by Alaska Baptists.

The convention elected John O. Jeffcoat of Fairbanks, a minister, president. Jeffcoat, last year's vice-president, presided at the 1962 convention because the president had moved out of the state. It will meet in 1963 at Anchorage, Aug. 13-15.

It adopted a \$47,009 budget for 1963 based on anticipated receipts from affiliated churches. Counting funds from the SBC Sunday School and Home Mission Boards for joint promotion and workers employed in this way, the budget comes to \$159,154.

The percentage of budget distribution to the SBC for work beyond Alaska was not reported, but in 1962 it was 24 per cent.

-30-

Folks and Facts.....

(8-25-62)

.....Baylor University conferred an honorary doctor of laws degree upon the chairman of the Texas Baptist school's board of trustees, Hilton E. Howell, during summer commencement exercises. Howell, past chairman of deacons at First Baptist Church in Waco, Tex., is a prominent attorney in the central Texas city. (BP)

-30-

.....An educator and a Baptist pastor were awarded honorary doctoral degrees from Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex., during summer commencement exercises. Receiving the doctor of divinity degree was A. B. Lightfoot, pastor of Crescent Park Baptist Church in Odessa, Tex. Awarded the doctor of laws degree was H. A. Hodges of Edinburg, Tex., vice-president of Pan American College since 1952 and a Baptist Sunday school teacher. (BP)

-30-

.....William Madison Whittington Sr., 84, Mississippi and Southern Baptist leader, died at Greenwood, Miss., Aug. 20. He was vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention when 33 years old and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at the age of 32. An attorney, Whittington served as a Congressman from Mississippi about 24 years until he retired in 1950. (BP)

-30-

August 25, 1962

Southern Baptist Due
To Be Rear Admiral

(Picture available on request)

By Walker Knight and Theo Sommerkamp

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (BP)--The first Southern Baptist chaplain to be advanced to the rank of rear admiral in the Navy feels there is no real difference between being a pastor and a chaplain.

Capt. James W. Kelly, senior chaplain at the United States Naval Academy here, will be promoted to rear admiral effective about July 1, 1963, at which time he will probably be reassigned to new duty.

He presently supervises the Academy's total religious program.

There are two Roman Catholic and two Protestant chaplains stationed at Annapolis to minister to the 3800 midshipmen training for officers' roles in the Navy. Capt. Kelly said he preaches to 2600 each Sunday during the school year.

The announcement of the forthcoming promotion of Capt. Kelly parallels that of the advancement of Chaplain Robert P. Taylor, another Southern Baptist, from brigadier general to major general in the Air Force.

An article in a Southern Baptist paper--he doesn't remember which--in 1942, shortly after Pearl Harbor was attacked, led Kelly into the chaplaincy. The article told of the need for Southern Baptist ministers to serve as Navy chaplains.

Then pastor of First Baptist Church, Malvern, Ark., Kelly responded. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action. He also won the Bronze Star medal with combat "V" for "heroic achievement during an explosion and fire" when his ship, the U.S.S. Mobile, was attacked by enemy aircraft in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific.

Then only a lieutenant, Chaplain Kelly was cited for "calmly and courageously moving among the helpless men (working) desperately to extinguish their flaming clothing and to administer injections to the more seriously wounded..."

The citation continues that Kelly remained there throughout the night "undoubtedly saving the lives of many who otherwise might have perished."

Kelly, a native of Carthage, Ark., graduated from Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

George W. Cummins of Atlanta, director of the division of chaplains for the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, hailed the news about Kelly.

"Chaplain Kelly is one of Southern Baptists' most outstanding chaplains," he noted. "He is an excellent preacher and has the opportunity each Sunday to preach to thousands of midshipmen at the Academy. He has maintained a pastor's heart throughout his military career and has been responsible for bringing thousands to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Chaplain Kelly married Miss Frances Evelyn Morton of Mountain Home, Ark., on Aug. 19, 1939. Their daughter, Judith Love, a drama major, graduated from Baylor University (Baptist) this year. After her wedding in September, this daughter and her husband--also a Baylor student--plan to serve with the Peace Corps in the Philippines.

The Kellys' two sons--Jimmy, 15, and Miles, 12--claim they are going to the Naval Academy some day, Capt. Kelly declared. There are two other children, Ruth Frances and Ann Marie.

Commenting on the work of the chaplain and its relationship to the pastorate, Kelly told the Baptist Press:

"I think it is always comparable to the ministry of any pastor who is preaching, visiting the sick, witnessing for Christ, counseling with the troubled. I don't see any difference in the chaplaincy and in being a pastor."

He has been at Annapolis for three years. In addition to the Sunday worship, there is a Naval Academy Christian Association for Protestant midshipmen and a weekly Bible study group on the campus here.

Chaplain Kelly maintains close ties with the Southern Baptist Convention. He said he's spoken at five of six seminaries--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., being the only one he's missed.

He's also participated in summer conferences at Baptist assemblies in Ridgcrest, N. C., and Glorieta, N. M.

"I think serving with the midshipmen in the Academy has been the greatest challenge and privilege I have ever had in my life," the chaplain stated.