

November 15, 1962

Readability Expert
Addressing Writers

MEMPHIS (BP)--Robert Gunning, nationally recognized authority on writing and readability, will address writers of Royal Ambassador publications Jan. 14 at a special conference here.

About 15 program writers and editors of other Southern Baptist Convention magazines are expected to hear Gunning's four-hour illustrated lecture.

The occasion is the annual conference for writers of Ambassador Life, monthly magazine for Baptist boys, and Ambassador Leader, quarterly magazine for men who work with boys.

The writers will receive their writing assignments for 1964 programs and hear criticisms of their 1962 manuscripts. Gunning will provide most of the criticisms relating to clear writing.

The January appearance at the Brotherhood Commission here will be Gunning's first in Southern Baptist writing circles. However, he will lecture to the group out of a rich background.

Gunning organized Robert Gunning Associates in 1944 to help staffs of newspapers, magazines and corporations improve their writing. He has worked with the staffs of more than 70 publications, including Look Magazine, the Wall Street Journal, Louisville Courier-Journal, Washington Star and Scripps-Howard Newspapers.

Writers attending the conference will include John Carter of Birmingham; W. J. Isbell and David K. Morris, both of Montgomery, Ala.; Mrs. J. C. Durham of Decatur, Ga.; Stanley J. Watson of New Orleans; Donald Holton of Brookhaven, Miss.; Mrs. O. K. Armstrong of Springfield, Mo.

Larry Allison and Theo Sommerkamp, both of Nashville; William Carroll and Gordon Vestal, both of Memphis; Mrs. C. J. Humphrey of Amarillo, Tex.; Jim Newton and Bill Pinson of Dallas, and George Euting of Richmond, Va.

-30-

Charles Mullins Heads
Convention In Hawaii

(11-15-62)

HONOLULU (BP)--The Hawaii Baptist Convention elected as its new president Charles D. Mullins, one of the 16 remaining Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the 50th state.

Mullins is pastor of Waianae Baptist Church, located on Oahu Island, along with Honolulu.

The Hawaii convention, since 1958 action of the Southern Baptist Convention and later arrival of statehood, has been going through a changeover.

Formerly a foreign mission field, there is a gradual transfer of responsibility to the local Hawaii convention, with an organization similar to mainland state conventions.

Both the Foreign and Home Mission Boards of the SBC are helping to support the Baptist work there at present.

The 213 messengers registering for the 1962 convention here were a record number. They adopted a record budget of \$241,148 for the coming year. They voted to increase to 25 per cent the amount of Cooperative Program income to be shared with the SBC.

-more-

Another record, in baptism of converts, was reported--575. The previous yearly high was 464. Membership of cooperating churches in the islands has increased to 6767.

Messengers held a luau commemorating the fact this was the 20th annual meeting of the convention.

They adopted a resolution opposing legalized gambling, which threatens Hawaii at the present time.

In his convention sermon, Dan H. Kong of Honolulu pointed out the obligations of Hawaii Baptists to carry out the work started by the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

The 1963 convention will meet at Wahiawa, also on the island of Oahu, Nov. 6-8.

-30-

12 SBC Churches Worth
\$3 Million And More

(11-15-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Twelve Southern Baptist churches have property valued at \$3 million or more. Two are in Dallas, two in Atlanta, two in Fort Worth.

1961 figures, the latest available, are from the research and statistics department of the Convention's Sunday School Board here.

First Baptist Church, Dallas, and First Baptist Church, Atlanta, stand out ahead of all others. The remaining 10 are clustered closer together.

The Dallas church, largest in membership in the SBC, has a plant valued at \$6,714,911 and a debt of \$1,106,000. It has 12,477 members.

Atlanta, First has a plant figured to be worth \$5 million with \$1 million debt. There are 5130 members.

A sister church in Atlanta comes third--Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, with property valued at \$3-3/4 million. It has the least debt of any in the dozen, owing only \$60,000. It has 4013 members.

Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, holds fourth place. Its plant is worth \$3-1/2 million but it owes the most of any Southern Baptist church, \$1,433,146. Its membership is 5697.

First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., follows with a valuation of \$3,463,445. On that, it owes \$587,000. It has 7762 members.

The largest in membership east of the Mississippi River is Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, with 9256 members. It is sixth largest in property value--\$3,238,578. It owes \$570,000.

Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, has 3826 members and a plant worth \$3,236,270. It owes \$557,000.

In eighth place in value comes First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. With 3347 members, it has a plant worth \$3,176,870 and a debt of \$569,000.

First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., is next in line. Its plant, debt and membership, in order, are: \$3,108,369; \$359,000; 4874.

For the remaining three, the same figures in order are:

First Baptist Church, Columbia, S. C.--\$3,020,000; \$708,000; 3982.

Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth--\$3,019,983; \$448,000; 5933.

First Baptist Church, Houston--\$3 million; \$750,000; 3498.

-more-

Four of the churches with the largest property values are among the top 10 churches in amount of debt in the SBC--Travis Avenue, Fort Worth; Dallas, First; Atlanta, First, and Houston, First.

Seven of the churches with the largest property values are among the top 12 churches in total budgets in the SBC--First, Dallas; Park Cities, Dallas; First, Shreveport, Second-Ponce de Leon, Atlanta; Bellevue, Memphis; First, Lubbock; and First, Atlanta.

-30-

Folks and Facts.....

(11-15-62)

.....Mrs. Mildred Dodson (William) McMurry, retiring officer of Woman's Missionary Union, has been awarded the honorary doctor of letters degree by Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. She was cited for her contributions to Christian education. The widow of a Baptist minister, Mrs. McMurry will continue to live in Birmingham, office site of the Southern Baptist Convention auxiliary which she served as director of its promotion division. (BP)

-30-

.....Students and faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary paid tribute to the memory of Mrs. Lizette Kimbrough McCall, mother of Seminary President Duke K. McCall, during the annual missions emphasis week on the Louisville campus. Her family established the foundation which sponsors the missions emphasis week. Mrs. McCall, "whose life embodied the purposes for which the foundation was established," according to the tribute, died last March. (BP)

-30-