

December 20, 1962

**Gains Seen In Work  
With National Baptists**

ATLANTA (BP)--Ten years ago one Southern Baptist worked full time with National (Negro) Baptists in a position of statewide responsibility under the auspices of the denomination's Home Mission Board.

In 1962, nine state directors of work with National Baptists met here for long-range planning with personnel of the mission board for budget, personnel and program needs.

These men represent more than 80 Southern Baptists who work with their fellow Negro Baptists in missions, Christian education, enlistment and evangelism, according to Victor Glass of Atlanta, associate secretary of the mission board's work with National Baptists.

Discussion ranged from developing and distributing statistical data on the Negro in America to a study of how other denominations work with their fellow Negro groups. Supplying scholarships for National Baptist youths preparing for Christian vocations in state supported, Baptist and private colleges was another topic.

"Our purpose is to cooperate with National Baptists in developing Christian leadership, strengthening their churches, and sharing with them in the world mission enterprise," Glass stated.

Southern Baptists have workers in 17 states. These have reached into 31 states having a Negro population of 18 million, according to Glass. The tasks of these workers include vacation Bible schools, summer camps, conferences, clinics, extension classes, Baptist Student Unions, summer student missionaries, simultaneous revivals and surveys.

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**Construction Accidents  
Damage Two Churches**

(12-20-62)

By the Baptist Press

Construction accidents at two Southern Baptist churches left damaged auditoriums and interrupted holiday enthusiasm, but no one was seriously injured.

At Jefferson City, Tenn., a portion of the balcony at the new auditorium of First Baptist Church fell during a chapel service being held by Carson-Newman College (Baptist).

About 1300 students were standing during the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's "Messiah" when the balcony collapsed. Students standing under it tried to protect themselves. Students sitting in the falling section rode it out.

College authorities reported two or three students were sent to hospitals overnight for observation.

At the First Baptist Church sanctuary under construction in Shreveport, La., a \$10,000 chandelier fell to the floor while workmen were installing pews.

"There was a defect in the cable," a church building committeeman reported. "It just snapped and fell. We can all be grateful that the defective cable broke when it did. Now a new cable can be installed and carefully tested to insure that this will never happen again."

Pastor James W. Middleton said no workmen were hurt in the Shreveport accident. The chandelier weighed 1500 pounds.

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Carson-Newman College financially aided the Jefferson City church in constructing the new auditorium, which is used twice a week for the college's chapel services. It was completed only three months ago.

A steel support broke causing the balcony to collapse, tentative reports indicated, but further checks were to be made as to the cause.

The builders reportedly assured college and church leaders the balcony would be rebuilt without additional cost.

"Fortunately, the balcony collapsed slowly," John Fox, the college's publicity director told Associated Press. "There was no panic and the ushers got the students out of the building in an orderly fashion."

The New Orleans manufacturer of the chandelier which fell said it was the largest one ever built in the United States. Damage to the Shreveport church was covered by insurance.

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Hagler Takes Helm  
Of Carolina Division

(12-20-62)

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--Ottis J. Hagler of Raleigh has been named director of the division of stewardship promotion and editorial services for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Hagler has been interim director for three months, following the death of Earle L. Bradley, who held the directorship.

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Trend Toward More Lay  
Baptist Leaders Noted

(12-20-62)

MEMPHIS (BP)--One of today's trends in the Southern Baptist Convention is the emerging of lay leadership, W. C. Fields, Nashville, Baptist public relations executive, told the denomination's Brotherhood leaders here.

This trend began in 1955, Fields said, when certain laymen asked the Southern Baptist Convention to study its entire program in an effort to make it more effective.

Today the Convention bylaws call for the Committees on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees to be composed of two members from each state, one a lay person.

The bylaws further state all Convention committees, boards, and commissions shall include both ordained and lay persons as members. Not more than two-thirds of the members of any group should be drawn from either category. The state Baptist conventions are now beginning to follow this same pattern, Fields said.

Fields, public relations secretary for Southern Baptists' Executive Committee, dealt with religious trends in his major address at the annual three-day meeting of state Brotherhood leaders held here under the auspices of the SBC Brotherhood Commission. Attending were 35 state Brotherhood secretaries and their associates from 22 states.

Among trends Fields mentioned was a growing interest by Baptists in biblical theology and Christian ethics and morality.

There's also a trend toward more sophistication among Baptists, he said. Each person or group desires to rise to the upper rung of the ladder.

Fields also told of a population shift from the country to the cities, and within cities to the suburbs.

"While we still have 15,000 Southern Baptist churches in open country, the new growth in churches is coming in urban areas," he said.

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"But this has brought about a culture change in which the rather puritanical restrictions of country life have given way to the looser, gamier, less inhibited ways of the city," Fields said.

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Folks and Facts.....

(12-20-62)

The American Broadcasting Co. (ABC) radio network featured Stetson University's 55-minute Christmas presentation of Handel's "Messiah" on a nationwide radio broadcast. About 300 of the 354 stations affiliated with the network carried the program. The Baptist school's presentation was directed by Harold M. Giffin, chairman of the voice department, DeLand, Fla. (BP)

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.....Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., has ordered a computer, its first. The purchase was made possible by (1) a \$25,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, (2) a 60 per cent discount to buyers using the computer for teaching and research and (3) a \$29,407 grant from the Babcock Foundation to remodel space for the new computer. It will be acquired from International Business Machines Co. (IBM)

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