

December 22, 1962

**American Convention
Adopts Test Program**

CHICAGO (BP)--A psychological testing program has been put into use by the Commission on the Ministry, serving the American Baptist Convention.

Beginning Jan. 1, the program was to test pre-seminary students. The commission said it was going to use a United Presbyterian Church official to help launch the testing program.

The testing program is designed to help provide the necessary counseling for prospective seminary students, which will lead students to better understand themselves and their potential as ministers.

The Commission on the Ministry coordinates the resources of the various agencies and boards of the American Convention in developing ministerial leadership.

In 1961, the Convention adopted educational standards for ministerial candidates ordained after Jan. 1, 1965. These include four years of college and three years of seminary study.

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**Baptist Pastor Dies
In Aut -Truck Crash**

(12-22-62)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Richard Otto Sutton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church here, was killed Dec. 18 when his small foreign-made car collided with a truck in the Memphis suburbs.

The impact of the crash spun the little auto around and tossed the 49-year-old minister under the rear wheel of the truck, police said.

Sutton had served as pastor of the 1602-member church since 1950, moving here from New Orleans. He was an outstanding boxer and football player as a high school student at North Little Rock, Ark. He gave up engineering studies at 22 to go into the ministry.

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**Georgia Baptists
Extend Ministries**

(12-22-62)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee voted here to extend its state missions ministry into the state prison and the mental hospital, one of the nation's largest.

The committee approved a record state missions budget for 1963, which includes appropriations for two new chaplains.

One will serve at the Reidsville State Prison in southeast Georgia. The prison has one chaplain, on the state payroll, but Georgia Baptists have never had their own chaplain there. The prison has about 2,400 inmates.

The other chaplain will be assigned to the state mental hospital at Milledgeville, which has almost 13,000 patients. A chaplains' program was begun at the hospital about a year ago by the state welfare department. Local pastors have been voluntarily assisting as possible in both institutions.

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J. Robert Smith, pastor, First Baptist Church, Statesboro, was reelected chairman of the Georgia executive committee. Joe S. Holliday, pastor, First Baptist Church, Milledgeville, was named vice-chairman.

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Supreme Court Involved
In Three Liberty Cases

(12-22-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sabbath observance and conscientious objection to military service claimed the attention of the United States Supreme Court.

In three cases involving religious liberty the Supreme Court:

1. Upheld (8-1) the constitutionality of Kentucky's Sunday closing law. The court saw "no substantial federal question" in the fact that the law exempts from its provisions members of religious faiths who keep a day other than Sunday as their sabbath.

2. Agreed to review a South Carolina State Supreme Court decision involving employment on Saturday of a member of the Seventh Day Adventist faith. The South Carolina court said that the person must accept work on Saturday, even though it violates religious belief, or forfeit rights to state unemployment compensation.

3. Agreed to look into the question of whether the federal courts have the right to review findings of fact on which a local draft board bases a decision to deny a claim for conscientious objection. In this case the appeal was from a pacifist member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Sullivan, Ill., commonly called Harshmanites.

In the Kentucky Sunday closing case the court dismissed the appeal for lack of a constitutional issue. The case involved the owners of three stores who employed persons in their business on Sunday.

Kentucky law forbids Sunday work "for profit or amusement" with certain exemptions for household duties, works of necessity, charity and public service. It also exempts from penalty "persons who are members of a religious society which observes as a Sabbath any other day in the week than Sunday."

In 1961 the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Sunday laws in a series of decisions. By its "per curiam" (by the court) order the Supreme Court indicated that it had already made its decision on the subject in previous interpretations of the law.

Justice William O. Douglas was the lone dissenter to the court's decision in the Kentucky case. He feels Sunday laws are aids to religion which are forbidden by the first amendment.

In the other Sabbath case the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of Miss Adell Sherbert of Spartanburg, S. C. She was discharged from her employment after 35 years with the Spartan Mills for refusing to work a six-day week because of her religious objections to labor on Saturday.

Miss Sherbert joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church and some years later the mill went on a six-day week, requiring work on Saturday, the Sabbath observed by her church. Her attorneys told the court that this discriminates against Seventh Day Adventists, as a class, denying them state unemployment compensation rights unless they are willing to violate their religious convictions.

The case of Malcolm L. Parker, the Harshmanite, could affect all proceedings under the Selective Service Act concerned with religious objectors. He was denied "conscientious objector" classification because some of the candy made in a factory where he worked was bought by the Army for use in survival kits.

The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago held that there can be no judicial review of the "findings of fact" by a local draft board, as long as there are any facts on which it has based its decision. Thus the verdict of the draft board must stand, even if erroneous.

The Supreme Court has agreed to look into this interpretation of the Selective Service Act. Parker claimed that the local draft board exhibited intense religious prejudice against him and other young men of the Harshmanite sect.

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Shelby Churches Combat
Choir Room Burglars

By Kenneth Everett

MEMPHIS (BP)--How do Baptist churches discourage thieves from stealing the offerings or prying into choir members' purses?

These two dangers have become the concern of most of the 118 churches in the Shelby (Memphis) Baptist Association since thieves looted the choir room at Highland Heights Baptist Church here of \$300.

These problems, in one way or another, are faced by both small and large Baptist churches across the nation.

Here are some steps several Memphis churches have taken to insure themselves against future burglaries.

Some churches have their own private police forces which keep an eye on valuables, both in the church and on the church parking lot.

Bellevue Baptist Church, which lists a membership of 9,256, has the most elaborate system to discourage thefts of any church surveyed here.

George Rush, church business administrator, said all loose offering is immediately counted by the finance office. All offering envelopes are left intact. Then, two men, accompanied by an armed policeman on duty at the church, carry the receipts to the bank depository.

This procedure is repeated after each church offering.

Only a small amount of petty cash is left in the church. And that is in a heavy safe embedded in concrete. About three months ago a would-be burglar tried unsuccessfully to take less than \$50 from it.

Bellevue's financial secretary and an assistant count Sunday's receipts at the bank Monday morning. Rush recommends a walk-in fireproof vault for church records and money.

Bellevue also has a police committee, elected like any other church committee, which patrols vacant hallways, empty rooms, and parking lots during services.

The Highland Heights Church, which has 5,129 members, locks Sunday's receipts in its huge safe, weighing several tons, Pastor S. A. Murphy said.

Three persons count the money on Monday before it is deposited in the bank. The safe is located inside a locked room.

The church lost a small sum of money several months ago when burglars broke into an office; however the thieves didn't find the safe.

But the church wasn't so lucky a few weeks ago. While the choir was singing for a worship service, a burglar climbed through a second-floor window and looted purses left behind by women in the choir.

The doors to the choir room were wired with a burglar alarm, but not the windows.

Everyone who handles money at the church signs it out. Also no money is left in the presence of just one person. Sunday's offerings are insured for \$10,000 against theft.

Two Baptist churches, Union Avenue with 2,449 members and Parkway Village with 325 members, lock their receipts in a safe until after the Sunday morning services. Then it is counted and deposited in local banks.

The Sunday night offerings, usually small, are kept in the church safes until the following Sunday.

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The finance committee of the Longview Heights Baptist Church, which has 1043 members, takes no chances with church money. Usually five committee members count the offering immediately after it is received. Then the men deposit it in the neighborhood bank by the time the service is over.

Rush, Bellevue administrator, believes churches which ask for police help in catching burglars should assist police in prosecuting them. He once identified a robbery suspect in the police lineup.

Rush believes an effort at reforming them should be done after they have been prosecuted.

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Folks and Facts.....

(12-22-62)

.....Hugh E. Willoby, pastor of Walker Avenue Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, will become youth worker for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma here, E. W. Westmoreland, secretary of the convention's religious education department, announced. Willoby will work with young people and intermediate age leadership in Oklahoma Baptist churches. He replaces Miss Sophia Duerksen who retired at the end of 1962. (BP)

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