

January 12, 1963

Bethany Press Coming
Out With Elliott Book

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Bethany Press here announced it has bought paperback rights to "The Message of Genesis," controversial book written by Ralph H. Elliott.

The book will come out in February, the first in a line of 26 paperbacks from Bethany Press, publishing arm of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

Both Elliott, still serving as interim pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., and Bethany Director D. K. Wolfe said corrections of spelling and typographical errors will be the only changes from the first edition.

Wolfe added that Bethany Press is renting the type from Broadman Press of the Southern Baptist Convention, which first issued the book. Broadman, operated by the SEC Sunday School Board, sold out the first printing of about 5000 copies and didn't reprint because of the controversy.

Doctrinal conservatives attacked the book for its alleged liberal viewpoint on the first book of the Bible. Elliott, at first defended by trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, eventually lost his teaching position at the SBC school when he declined not to withhold it from a second publication.

Wolfe claimed 2000 back orders for "The Message of Genesis." This included a group from Baptist booksellers and one from the Saturday Evening Post, he said. Bethany Press will print 5000 copies, selling at \$1.75 each.

Under terms of the contract with Bethany, Elliott retains the copyright, but Bethany Press has paperback rights in the United States, Canada and Australia, according to Wolfe.

"We have been looking for a good title for our Abbott line of paperback books, a new line being introduced," Wolfe told Baptist Press. "One of our ministers in Kansas City, a friend of Dr. Elliott's, called me to say that Elliott did not have a publisher and asked would I like to look at it.

"I sent copies of the book to our regular readers' committee of advisors and a publication committee of biblical scholars. Our directors notified me to go ahead if I thought the book was of sufficient quality and my publication committee told me to go ahead for this reason:

"They thought the book warranted being published because of the way it had been handled in the past. In other words, they felt no man ought to lose his job just because he had a book on the Bible published that did not happen to appeal to all of the constituents.

"In our opinion, the advisors said, the book represents a moderately conservative and critical position. It is well written for the point of view and style. While it is not a major scholarly work we believe it will fit into the Bethany line without discredit.

"Among the Disciples, Methodists or Presbyterians the book would not have met strong opposition."

The back of the paperback edition will comment:

"The original publication of Professor Elliott's 'The Message of Genesis' was accompanied by controversy and misunderstanding. In making the book available to the reading public, the publishers are concerned that the author's opinion may be judged on the basis of first-hand rather than second-hand report.

"This book has been called conservative by many of our reader-advisors, but all have pointed out it has liberal overtones and without exception each has recommended that in the name of religious and academic freedom it be kept in print."

Ohio Paid Its Own
Way In SBC In 1962

COLUMBUS (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio paid its own way in 1962 for the first time in the life of the nine-year-old convention.

Ray E. Roberts, executive secretary-treasurer, reported to the executive board meeting here that for the first time more money had been disbursed to Southern Baptist Convention causes than had been received from Southern Baptist agencies.

The convention's four-state area of Ohio, West Virginia, western New York and Pennsylvania is a designated pioneer mission field and receives supplements from both the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Supplements for joint field and promotion work received from both boards in 1962 totaled \$96,874. The Ohio convention disbursed \$155,356 to worldwide causes, including \$70,626 through the Cooperative Program.

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Average Pastor Found
In Survey Tabulation

(1-12-63)

By the Baptist Press

Male. Age: 40. Married; two children. Attended Baptist college one or more years. Any seminary training obtained came from one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries. Has been preaching 12 years, a pastor for 11 years. Served five churches in that span, will serve present church three years. Became a Christian at age 15.

Who is it? According to a survey by a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, this description fits the average Southern Baptist pastor.

Leonard E. Hill of Nashville, production editor, the Baptist Program, sent 1191 pastors his questionnaire. His doctoral thesis dealt with the methods used by Baptist churches to call their pastors.

Don't be misled by the description in the first paragraph, Hill warns. Any church looking for a pastor with those exact qualifications may be looking for a long time.

The description doesn't tell you, either, that probably one of five Southern Baptist pastors spends 30 hours per week doing secular work or going to school.

Or that one of 10 didn't go beyond the eighth grade in school. Four of 10 did graduate work beyond the four years of college.

Hill also learned 18 per cent of the pastors had previously served as a church staff member other than pastor--as evangelist, chaplain, teacher, or denominational worker. Three per cent at one time had served a church of another denomination.

Nearly half the pastors--46 per cent--did not belong to any community organization outside the church. The usual reason: "Don't have time."

Other facts, in capsule, uncovered by the survey:

Pastors with less formal education are more apt to be found in smaller churches and in less densely populated communities.

Only 5 per cent of the pastors have been with their present churches for a decade or longer.

Three-fourths of the preachers are between 25 and 49 years of age.

Three per cent of the ministers had been divorced.

More than 3 per cent had to avoid certain climates because of their own health or that of some member of their families.

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Roberts Asks Students To Take Pioneer Calls

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here have been urged to consider accepting calls to pioneer missions fields in the United States.

Ray E. Roberts of Columbus, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, described the four-state area served by that convention as having more people without Christ than in the entire "traditional Southern Baptist Convention territory."

The convention, in addition to Ohio, has affiliated churches in parts of Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia nearer the Ohio border. Roberts reported 25 million persons in that area not affiliated with any church. It is considered a pioneer mission area for Southern Baptists.

More than 5000 cities and villages have no Baptist churches, he went on.

"A lack of preachers proclaiming the gospel is the only reason Baptist churches are not being organized." "All we have," he said, "are opportunities to preach and build churches in places where every situation is not a guaranteed success story, but which are places of the world's greatest spiritual need."

Roberts is an alumnus of Southern Seminary, who moved into Ohio from Kentucky 10 years ago to establish Southern Baptist churches. He was missionary day speaker for the seminary.

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Baylor Wins Award For Sportsmanship

(1-12-63)

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University, the largest Southern Baptist school, has been named winner of the annual Southwest Conference sportsmanship award.

The Baptist school won the award, not only for the conduct of football and basketball players, but also because of the sportsmanship of spectators and the student body.

A Southwest Conference sportsmanship committee praised Baylor for its attention to details in acting as the host school for athletic contests, the leadership of the yell leaders in controlling spectators and the sportsmanship of the team and coaches.

An editorial in the Baylor Lariat, campus newspaper, said that winning the award "is a victory won by every person who attended a Baylor game.

"In a sport when booing officials' decisions is prevalent and unruly pre- and post-game activities are commonplace, Baylor students and supporters deserve commendation," the editorial said.

The campus newspaper praised Baylor Football Coach John Bridgers and his staff for portraying at all times good sportsmanship, and for teaching that code of ethics to team members.

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