

April 11, 1963

**4 Associations Exist
In Kansas City Area**

By Donald J. Sorensen

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The 15,000 Southern Baptists coming here for their 1963 Convention session will find at least 106 of their affiliated churches formed into four associations.

Southern Baptists maintain a seminary, a liberal arts college, a hospital, a book store and a welfare association in the million-plus population of greater Kansas City.

A roll call of seminaries here shows a wide diversity. The Southern Baptist Convention picked this heart of America location for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, newest of its six.

There also are the St. Paul School of Theology (Methodist), Central Baptist Theological Seminary (American Baptist), Nazarene Theological Seminary, Concordia Seminary at nearby Concordia (Missouri Synod Lutheran), and two Catholic training schools--St. John's Seminary and St. Augustine's Monastery.

Negro Baptists are represented with the Western Baptist Bible College. There is also the Unity School of Practical Christianity at suburban Lee's Summit.

Many schools and colleges in the area have denominational ties.

William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo., is a well-known Southern Baptist name. Park College in Parkville, Mo., is Presbyterian. National College is a four-year liberal arts school with Methodist connections.

Catholic schools are Rockhurst and Donnelly Colleges and the college of St. Teresa, the latter a girls' school.

There are three unique religious groups. Stonecroft is a missionary undertaking primarily for women. They promote help through women's clubs for missions and lend a helping hand to the ministry in rural churches.

The Gospel Missionary Union supports foreign missionaries all over the world. A third group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, uses an athletic appeal to reach the nation's youth.

The Baptist Memorial Hospital has opened three more floors, bringing its total here to nine floors with 300 beds. Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists and Jews also operate hospitals in the Kansas City region.

The Kansas City Baptist Welfare Association, linked to Southern Baptists, helps people in need by providing jobs and other assistance.

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Ministers' Wives Plan
Kansas City Meeting

(4-11-63)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Baptist ministers' wives will hold their annual meeting in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium here at 3:30 p.m., May 7.

The speaker will be the wife of a retired rural pastor, Mrs. George N. (Mary Anne) Smith of Georgetown, Ky. She will speak on the topic, "The Full Life of a Rural Pastor's Wife."

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Mrs. Smith is a graduate of Georgetown College (Baptist) in Georgetown and writes curriculum material for Southern Baptist quarterlies.

President of the conference of ministers' wives, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, is Mrs. Dick H. Hall Jr. of Decatur, Ga.

Honored at the meeting will be a pastor's wife for her outstanding work. This is a regular custom of the women. Her name will be announced at the meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a tea. Wives of Southern Baptist pastors and ministers in other types of service will attend the meeting. It is one of several events preceding the opening session of the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention here.

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\$5,000 Voted For Flood
Relief To Mountain Area

(4-11-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has appropriated \$5,000 for flood relief to churches in the Southern Appalachian area.

Many churches in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia suffered extensive damage from flash floods. The funds will assist the churches to restore buildings and replace furnishings destroyed by the floods this spring.

"The floods in this area were especially tragic because of widespread unemployment in the mountains," said Wendell M. Belew of Atlanta, secretary of the associational missions department for the mission agency.

Delew and Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the board's division of missions, will supervise the distribution of the \$5,000 in cooperation with mission leaders in the states.

Belew said the fund will provide immediate relief in some critical areas until other funds are available. He said Kentucky Baptists are taking an offering in their churches for flood relief. This should provide for more extensive relief later.

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American Convention
Tax Charge Reduced

(4-11-63)

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (BP)--Judge David E. Groshens, of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pa., issued a decree here that the American Baptist Convention and the organizations associated with it at nearby Valley Forge are "purely public charities."

Out of the total of 55-1/2 acres of land Baptists presently occupy, the court decreed 28-1/2 acres are taxable because they are not necessary for the occupancy and "enjoyment of said charity." In addition, 1,500 square feet used by the Board of Education and Publication as a bookstore are also subject to tax.

The taxes for 1962 had been temporarily set at approximately \$130,000 based on a tax assessment of \$2.2 million. The American Baptist Convention had placed an amount in escrow sufficient to cover the temporary assessment pending settlement of the tax appeal.

The decree handed down by the court means that approximately \$83,000 will be paid for 1962 taxes, assessed on the incompleated buildings not as yet occupied and used by the Convention. About \$47,000 will be returned to the American Baptist Convention.

The new tax assessment based upon the court's decision will be \$300,000 for the year 1963 and the taxes will amount to approximately \$18,000 annually.

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"The fact that the decree establishes that the Convention and all its agencies are 'purely public charities' is an important principle," said Edwin H. Tuller, Valley Forge, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention.

"If and when the Convention uses more of its available property for charitable purposes," continued Tuller, "taxes will be reduced accordingly. There is no abridgement of the principle that all of the agencies at Valley Forge are tax exempt in the eyes of the law.

"We feel that the settlement is eminently fair to all concerned and we are particularly pleased that those representing the community have enabled us to come to such an amicable agreement," Tuller concluded.

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20 From SBC Take Part
In Church Press Meet

(4-11-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--At least 20 Southern Baptists participated in the 1963 Associated Church Press convention here, first one in the group's 57-year history in the South.

W. C. Fields, of Nashville, public relations secretary to the Convention's Executive Committee, was chairman of the program and local arrangements. The Baptist Program, edited by his office, is a member of the Associated Church Press.

The Newsletter, publication of the Baptist Sunday School Board, an SBC agency, was voted into membership. Representing it at the meeting were Gomer Lesch, Nashville, editor, and Mrs. Agnes G. Ford, press representative.

Joe T. Odle, Jackson, Miss., editor of the Baptist Record; Kenneth Everett of Memphis, from the Brotherhood Journal; Roger Branch, Raleigh, assistant editor of the Biblical Recorder, and Erwin L. McDonald, Little Rock, editor of the Arkansas Baptist, represented their member papers, which are SBC periodicals.

Royal Service, publication of Woman's Missionary Union of the SBC, Birmingham, had three persons present--Editor Miss Ethalee Hamric, Miss Laurella Owens, and Mrs. William McMurry. It is also a member of the Associated Church Press.

Miss Hamric served as a reactor on one panel discussion.

R. N. Owen, Nashville, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, visited the meeting although his paper is not a member publication.

Theo Sommerkamp and Leonard E. Hill of Nashville, employed in the public relations office of the SBC Executive Committee, assisted with local arrangements. Three secretaries in that office worked at the registration desk--Mrs. Robert Jackson, Miss Kay Heard and Miss Loretta McCreary.

Lloyd Wright, Washington, director of public affairs support for the Peace Corps, addressed the 135 church editors from the United States and Canada. Wright was director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas before joining the Peace Corps.

Herman F. Burns, director of the art department of the Sunday School Board led a workshop. Lewis Booker, Richmond attorney, chairman of the Virginia Baptist religious liberty committee, spoke on Sunday blue laws.

Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary, Christian Life Commission of the SBC, also was reactor for one panel.

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Baptists Hold Special
Services For Jews

(4-11-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist churches have been conducting special services for Jewish friends.

The week's emphasis, an annual event called Jewish Fellowship Week, included music programs, sermons, teas, and other meetings at which the Christians and Jews met on a social basis.

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William B. Mitchell of Atlanta, assistant secretary of the city missions department of the Home Mission Board, said many churches began studying "Christianity and World Religions." A chapter was given to the study of Judaism.

Mitchell said the emphasis was national, and pointed out articles on Judaism and Southern Baptist work with Jewish neighbors in such denominational publications as "Brotherhood Journal," "Baptist Program," and the "Training Union Magazine."

Many ministers, according to Mitchell, preached from the Old Testament, that part of the Bible held sacred by both Jews and Christians. He said music programs also exalted Jesus as the Messiah.

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