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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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July 18, 1963

50,000 Southern Baptists
Sought For Atlantic City

ATLANTA (BP)--Fifty thousand Southern Baptists may walk the boardwalks of Atlantic City, N. J., next May.

They will, if the plans being made by the attendance committee of the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention are fulfilled.

May 18-22 are the dates set for the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlantic City, and May 21-24 will be the Third Baptist Jubilee Celebration also in the city.

The jubilee celebration observes the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work on national level on the North American continent. Taking part in the Atlantic City activities will be representatives of seven Baptist conventions.

"A joint session of all groups on the evening of May 22 may attract as many as 100,000 Baptists," said M. Wendell Belew of Atlanta, chairman of the attendance committee.

"We are seeking to have 50,000 Southern Baptists as our part of the 1964 celebration," he added, "and if they come, it will be the largest attended convention in history."

The record registration of messengers was in 1960 when the SBC met in Miami Beach and 13,612 attended.

Belew, in announcing plans of the committee, indicated the chances were excellent for a record group to attend the meeting. He cited the following reasons this Convention would attract so many:

First, to take part in the Third Baptist Jubilee Celebration and meet other Baptists.

Second, to attend a historic meeting of the SBC.

Third, to see Atlantic City and to visit the World's Fair in nearby New York City.

Fourth, to visit mission work throughout the Northeastern area, as well as other points between their homes and Atlantic City.

Fifth, to tour historical points in the Northeastern area, the birthplace of American evangelical Christianity.

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104 Church Secretaries
Receive Certificates (7-18-63)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Certificates of achievement were presented to 104 church secretaries from 12 states after completing five days of study at the fourth annual Church Secretaries Institute on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary campus here.

All n W. Graves, dean of the school of religious education, presented the certificates on behalf of Southern Seminary and the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Having time to do all a church secretary is supposed to do and maintaining a church information center" were described by the group as two of their greatest problems.

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Sunday School Board personnel from Nashville and members of the seminary faculty and staff taught courses and led discussion. Topics varied from secretarial skills and office management to emotional problems and theology.

The annual meeting is jointly sponsored by the Sunday School Board and Southern Seminary.

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SBC Mission Agency
Hires Slavic Leader (7-18-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has taken the first steps for an intensified ministry to the more than 15 million Slavic-speaking people of the nation.

The mission agency has employed Elias L. Golonka, pastor of the Polish Baptist Church in Chicago, as a field worker. He will lead in "surveying the needs and designing the features" of a ministry for evangelizing the Slavic peoples.

Golonka, recently reelected as president of the small Polish Baptist Association, is a native of Poland. He speaks six languages and served as a European pastor, an officer in the Polish army and was a chaplain to displaced persons following World War II. He was once imprisoned by the Russians and once under long-time house arrest by the Germans.

He became a pastor in the United States in 1950 at Minneota, Minn. He was educated in Europe and in the United States at Bethel College in St. Paul, the University of Chicago and the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago.

"This is the beginning of one of the most significant language missions undertakings of the Home Mission Board," said Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the language groups ministries department.

However, Corder added, "it is not the purpose of this ministry to enlist present Polish and other Slavic Baptist churches to affiliate with Southern Baptists.

"We will promote the establishment of new churches and the enlistment of present English-speaking churches to minister to Slavic people with methods presently used by our churches in ministering to other language groups."

He also indicated that the invitation for Southern Baptists to help meet the spiritual needs of the Polish-speaking people originated within the Polish group, and that similar approaches have been made by other Slavic groups.

Golonka will move to Atlanta, where the mission agency office is located.

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Seminary Elects Head (7-18-63)

Charles E. Boddie, Valley Forge, Pa., associate secretary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies, has been elected president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, jointly operated by Negro Baptists and the Southern Baptist Convention. Boddie, a Negro, succeeds Maynard P. Turner Jr., who resigned. (BP)

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Seminary Prof Chosen (7- 18-63)

John O. Strange, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary professor, is one of 21 American professors of Bible and Hebrew chosen to participate in a N w York University workshop in Israel a month this summer.

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Nuclear Gospel Said
Needed Around World

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--3000 Baptist youth from around the world were urged here to engage in their own atomic war, one which will spread the Christian gospel around the world in a chain reaction.

"The Christian gospel was meant to be spread around the world like fissionable material--each atom igniting every other one it touches, every Christian witnessing to everyone he touches," Robert S. Denny, Baptist youth leader from the United States, declared.

He told the young people, meeting here for the 6th Baptist Youth World Conference, "No man is responsible for all the world, but every man is responsible for that part of the world to which his influence reaches. That influence may reach farther than anyone knows."

From 51 nations came the college age young people. Some had visited Europe and the Near East--including Russia--prior to the conference. Others would tour afterward, with the nearby Holy Land expected to be the leading attraction.

Denny, in his conference-opening address, said peace with God is necessary before men "find peace with each other."

Associate and youth secretary for the Baptist World Alliance, Denny, of Washington, D. C., earlier said 1700 of the advance registrations for the conference came from the United States. But 216 young Baptists were coming in a chartered 'plane from the Scandinavian countries, 108 from Great Britain and 86 from Germany.

One delegation of 46 came by ship from Australia.

The prime minister of host Lebanon, greeting the conference, said, "I pray that this conference will be crowned with success for this country and the good of mankind."

One of the major speakers, Martin Luther King Jr. of Atlanta and Birmingham, cancelled his date and stayed in the United States because of developments in the racial issue there.

This Baptist youth world conference, held every five years, is the largest international convention ever held in Lebanon. Although most are college youth, adults who work with them accompanied many of the groups to the conference.

The week-long conference met under the theme, "Jesus Christ in a Changing World."

Denny also told the conference in his address that space and communication advances "make us all the more aware of the problems which plague people." These problems he itemized as "politics, sickness, illiteracy, hunger, exploitation, frustration.

"A world once separated by oceans is now connected by oceans," he said, to indicate the nature of the changing world.

"We must get into the fields of politics and medicine and science and the battle for dignity and the work of spreading the gospel," he continued. "Christian love and compassion is God's solution to the problems of men."

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