

July 31, 1963

Georgia's Interest
Helps Wyoming Church

GREEN RIVER, Wyo. (BP)--The concrete interest of some Georgia Baptist laymen in pioneer missions in the West bore fruit here in the constitution of the nineteenth Southern Baptist church in Wyoming.

The Monroe Avenue Baptist Church of Green River was constituted with 32 charter members. Dudley Phifer, young Oklahoman just out of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, is pastor.

Sharing in the constitution service were three Georgia Baptist laymen--Don Woodall of Cochran, L. Z. NeSmith of Hawkinsville and Georgia Brotherhood Secretary Bernard D. King of Atlanta. Three other Georgia laymen--Jim Pritchett of Cochran and Lucius Daniel and L. E. Lowery of Hawkinsville--served on the constituting council.

The Georgia interest in a Wyoming mission becoming a church dates back to 1962 when NeSmith went to Green River to share in a Laymen's Evangelism Crusade jointly sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Convention Brotherhood department and the Colorado Baptist General Convention, of which Wyoming is a part.

NeSmith found a struggling group of about 20 Southern Baptists worshipping in a local Odd Fellows Hall, above a grocery store, with classes being held above and below the store. Phifer had been pastoring the mission and selling shoes in a local store for five months.

The mission group had spotted a choice piece of land in a rapidly developing residential area of Green River, an oil-and-railroad city of about 7,000 people, but they had no funds to buy the land.

Neither did their mother church, Calvary Baptist Church of nearby Rock Springs, which has not been a church itself but a few years.

NeSmith went home greatly burdened with the needs of the Green River Mission. He told the Woman's Missionary Union of the Pulaski-Bleckley Association, which includes the Hawkinsville-Cochran area of Georgia, of the opportunity in Green River.

The women's group got behind the associational officers and--to make a long story short--the churches in the Pulaski-Bleckley Association raised the money to buy the acreage needed for the mission to start a building program.

The land was already cleared and the basement excavated and the mission had \$3,000 furnishings fund when it came time for a third annual Laymen's Evangelistic Crusade by Georgia laymen among Southern Baptist Convention churches in Wyoming.

Woodall and Pritchett were sent to the Green River Mission; Daniel and Lowery worked in the Rock Springs church and NeSmith served in the Kemmerer Southern Baptist Mission, another mission of the Rock Springs church in a neighboring city.

On the concluding day of the five-day crusade, pastor and members of all three groups met together to constitute the Green River Mission into the Monroe Avenue Baptist Church.

more

Six persons had made professions of faith for baptism after Woodall brought the morning message, making 32 charter members for the afternoon constitutional service.

L. J. Hatcher, pastor of the Kemmerer mission, brought the message and Denver J. Bennett, pastor at Rock Springs, moderated the service. Robert L. Smith, Wyoming area missionary for the Colorado convention and the SBC Home Mission Board, convened the council.

Southern Baptists now have 19 churches and two missions serving the 350,000 residents of Wyoming.

-30-

Alabama Baptist Budget
Nears \$5 Million

7-31-63

MONTGOMERY (BP)--The proposed 1964 Alabama Baptist State Convention budget goal has been set at nearly \$5 million at a preliminary budget meeting here.

The administration committee of the convention voted to recommend a total budget of \$4,944,000, including the Cooperative Program and designated items. This recommendation will be presented to the executive board in November and then to the state convention meeting in Birmingham Nov. 12-14.

Included in the 1964 Cooperative Program goal are \$2,360,665 for operating funds; \$870,584 for capital funds; and \$512,750 in anticipated extra missions funds. Total Cooperative Program goal is \$3,744,000, an increase of \$200,000 over 1963.

In 1964, \$1,310,130 is earmarked for Southern Baptist Convention causes, marking nearly a \$100,000 increase over 1963. Alabama Baptists voted in recent years to assure at least 35 per cent of total Cooperative Program funds going to the SBC.

According to George E. Bagley, executive secretary-treasurer for the Alabama Baptist state executive board here, Cooperative Program giving by Baptist churches in the state has reached \$2,358,469 from Nov. 1, 1962, through June 30, 1963.

Rounding out the nearly \$5 million goal for 1964 is \$1.2 million for foreign, home, and state missions, along with the children's home offering and other designated items.

In other action, the committee approved the employment of a superintendent for the central services for the executive board, including printing, mailing, addressing, tracts and general supervision of the building.

Reports were also heard from committees studying the possible establishment of a boys' camp and a girls' camp in connection with the Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly near Talladega. The committees were asked to bring further recommendations to the November board meeting.

Additional funds were recommended for the Baptist Foundation of Alabama to proceed with the development of a \$10 million program of endowment for Christian education in Alabama. Funds were provided for the completion of air conditioning of the auditorium, classrooms and dining hall at Shocco Springs.

-30-

Ouachita Announces
\$1 Million Bequest

ARKADELPHIA, Ark, (BP)--A bequest which will eventually total nearly one million dollars, the largest in the 77-year history of Ouachita Baptist College here, has been left to the school by a niece of the first president, according to an announcement by President Ralph A. Phelps Jr.

Mrs. Jane Flippen Perrin, nee Jane Conger Flippen, has left Ouachita an immediate sum of over \$800,000, Phelps indicated. An additional \$150,000 will also come to the college eventually when a trust fund, the income of which goes to a friend of Mrs. Perrin's, is terminated.

Mrs. Perrin died at the age of 88 on June 29, 1962. Her mother was a sister of Dr. J. W. Conger, first president of the school, and Mrs. Perrin lived in the president's home while attending Ouachita from 1891 through 1894.

In her will, written in 1960, Mrs. Perrin indicated she was leaving the bulk of her estate to Ouachita "in memory of my late uncle, Dr. J. W. Conger, founder of the college, and my late husband, Alexander P. Perrin."

Mr. and Mrs. Perrin lived in Arabi, La., a suburb of New Orleans. Before his death in 1950, Perrin was a livestock broker, plantation owner, and real estate developer. They had no children.

Mrs. Perrin was a leader in 43 clubs in and around New Orleans and served as an officer in many of them. At one time she was a proof-reader for McClure's Magazine and also did some writing for Hollywood.

For five years she had a regular program over radio station WSMB in New Orleans. She took 21 people--mostly young people who would never have had a chance to go otherwise--to Europe, and she assisted a large number of boys and girls through school.

-30-

Ben Elrod To Handle
Ouachita Development

7-31-63

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--A native Arkansan who is an alumnus of the school has been named vice-president for development at Ouachita Baptist College here.

He is Ben M. Elrod, 33, a graduate of the class of 1952.

Elrod, who has served as pastor of the 1,600-member South Side Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., for the past three years, will assume the post Sept. 1.

Phelps indicated the position, a new one of Ouachita, would have as its primary responsibility a long-range program of fund-raising.

Elrod will also be in charge of public relations and alumni affairs.

-30-

Religious Educators 1964 Meet

The 1964 meeting of the Religious Education Association of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held May 18-19 in the Surf Room of the Ambassador Hotel at Atlantic City, C. Winfield Rich, minister of education at Temple Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., association president, said. (BP)

-30-

Stetson Grant Renewed

7-31-63

J. Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., has announced the receipt of \$24,000 from the Fund for the Advancement of Education, established by the Ford Foundation.

This grant will permit the Baptist university to continue its summer institutes for teachers of English and for teachers of history for the next three years. (BP)

-30-

Note to editors: This story, if you desire to use it, should be published prior to Aug. 14 due to future tense involved.

Boys Dedicate
Memorial To Rice

7-31-63

WASHINGTON (BP)--A shroud will slowly rise in ceremonies here to uncover a 10-foot limestone memorial to the memory of Luther Rice, early Baptist educator, organizer, missionary and journalist.

The occasion will be the Luther Rice Memorial dedication service, a feature of the Third National Royal Ambassador Congress, expected to attract 6,000 boys 12-17 to the nation's capital.

Main speakers at the dedication service on the front lawn of Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church at Silver Spring, Md., in the Washington Suburbs, will be Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Dr. Franklin Fowler of Richmond, Va., medical consultant of the Foreign Mission Board.

The memorial will be given to the church by the Royal Ambassadors. Baptist boys from throughout the United States donated \$5,000 at the rate of one dollar per chapter to pay for the monument.

The monument will be accepted by John A. Holt, pastor of Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church.

Flanking the profile of Luther Rice on the monument will be four plaques, pointing up the contributions the early Baptist made to education, journalism, and as a missionary and an organizer.

There were contributed by First Baptist Church and the Woman's Missionary Union here, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and the Luther Rice Church.

The dedication is one of a series of features planned for the boys. Others include an address by the Royal Ambassador winner of a national speakers' contest, testimonies by Christian athletes, pageants, missionary demonstrations and a guided tour of the city.

more

The dedication service will be reenacted at the Sylvan Theater at the foot of the Washington Monument before the Royal Ambassadors.

Major program personalities will include Shelby Wilson of Fort Worth, a Southern Baptist evangelist and former Olympic Wrestling champion; Carl Erskine of Anderson, Ind., Baptist layman and former pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers; Maj. Gen. Robert Taylor of Washington, chief of Air Force Chaplains; Edward Kemper of Washington, inspector for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Gregory Walcott of Canoga Park, Calif., Baptist lay leader and television actor.

Eighteen Southern Baptist missionaries, 11 home and seven foreign, will share their testimonies with the youths.

The congress, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and state Brotherhood departments, is designed to deepen boys' concepts of Christianity and to provide them with opportunities to associate with Christian youths from other parts of the nation.