

August 7, 1963

Utah, Idaho Take Major
Step Toward Convention

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Southern Baptists in Utah and Idaho have crossed a major hurdle in forming a state Baptist convention.

The step was taken when the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention agreed at its mid-year meeting here to waive its requirement needed before assisting a new state convention.

Utah and Idaho expect to have between 8,000 and 9,000 church members by Jan. 1, 1965 and the mission agency has required a minimum of 10,000.

"This low population area should not have to meet the same requirements in members as some of the more densely populated states," argued David Hall, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Hall is a member of the mission board from Arizona, the state convention with which Utah and Idaho Baptists are now affiliated.

"Work in these two states is harder than most foreign mission fields," Hall added, "and members are hard to come by. Baptists in these states need the status and encouragement this step would give them." Combined population of the two states was 1,558,000 in 1960.

Hall also indicated Arizona Baptists were not trying to get rid of the two states, but saw the need for the step because of the great distances involved. The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention stretches from Mexico to Canada and also includes a part of Nevada.

The Baptists of Utah and Idaho were represented by Bill Thornton, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Boise, Ida., and president of the regional missions committee.

The mission agency does not assist financially state groups organizing into conventions until they have a minimum of 50 churches and 10,000 members, have been cooperating for five years with Southern Baptists, have a preliminary organization and have 10 per cent of church offerings designated for the Cooperative Program.

Actually, there are not now enough churches in the two states. Utah reports 30 and Idaho reports 14, but workers said they expect to meet the minimum of 50 by 1965.

Baptists of Utah and Idaho will now ask approval from the Arizona convention and other Southern Baptist Convention agencies which give financial assistance to state conventions.

A Utah-Idaho-Nevada convention organization was proposed in 1959, but messengers from the churches voted to delay it because they failed on a number of the requirements needed for financial assistance.

Instead, a regional missions committee was set up to direct the work in Utah and Idaho. Since then they have held most of the meetings of a state convention, such as evangelism conferences and church organization conferences.

The first Southern Baptist work in the area started in Roosevelt, Utah, in 1944. The first association was formed in 1950.

Home Board Approves
Aid To Puerto Rico

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention approved limited assistance to Baptist work on the island commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Three Southern Baptist churches, affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention, requested the mission agency more than a year ago to help serve the 2.5 million people on the Carribean island. The board began a study of needs and resources at that time.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the language groups ministries department, visited Puerto Rico, and his survey resulted in the recommendation to start the work. His department will direct the ministry and provide funds in the 1964 budget.

The recommendation, adopted at the mid-year meeting of the Home Mission Board, carefully spelled out "the limited way" in which the work would be started because of budget limitations.

"No extensive promotional or enlargement program will be undertaken immediately," said Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the board.

The report assured other Baptists "no work will be undertaken in communities now served by their churches."

Puerto Rico, controlled by Spain until the Spanish-American War in 1898, has recently had its economy to boom, raising living standards and stopping much of the out-migration which earlier sent many of its residents to New York and other mainland areas.

The economy rests upon a growing industry, farming, tourist, and fishing. Its major cities are San Juan with 432,000 people, and Ponce, with 114,000.

Spanish is the dominant language in this United States territory with English being widely used.

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Home Missionaries
Reach 2187 Total

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The commissioning here of missionaries for the deaf and for city missions raised the total under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to 2,187.

"This is 196 more missionaries than was reported at the mid-year meeting of the board last year," announced Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary.

"We are grateful for this increase and for the quality of missionary personnel appointed as we increase our efforts to win to faith in Christ the more than 80 million unchurched in our America," he added.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gilbert St. John, both natives of Arkansas, were appointed for deaf work in Mississippi. Emory P. Collins, a native of Oklahoma, was appointed superintendent of missions for Orange County, Calif.

St. John, a native of Warren, Ark., was educated at Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif.

Mrs. St. John, the former Erkle Eldean Kessinger of Conway, Ark., was educated at Arkansas State Teachers College, Ouachita Baptist College and Golden Gate Seminary. They have two sons.

Both Mr. and Mrs. St. John became interested in using sign language while attending a California Baptist church which had a deaf class.

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Collins was educated at Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee and at Covina Baptist Seminary in Covina, Calif. He was pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, West Covina, Calif., before his appointment.

Redford also announced there are 645 summer workers currently working on mission fields in the United States and Panama. Eighty-four of these are sponsored by Baptist Student Unions.

In addition, there are 1,436 Southern Baptist chaplains serving with the military, Veterans Administration, the reserve, student programs, Civil Air Patrol, National Guard, hospitals, and institutional or industrial situations.

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Bond Sales By Mission
Board Total \$1,196,000

(8-7-63)

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The sale of church bonds by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention totaled \$1,196,000 for the last 12 months.

The announcement was made by G. Frank Garrison of Atlanta, director of the division of church loans, to the mid-year meeting of the mission agency here.

Sale of the bonds was stimulated by the establishment last year of the guarantee trust fund of \$250,000. This fund was set aside to secure or guarantee to the purchaser full payment of church bonds sold by the board.

The bonds sold by the board have been purchased from churches, and are resold to investors guaranteed by the trust fund.

Garrison also reported the corpus of available loan funds of the mission agency now totals \$11,840,881. In the past 12 months \$8,889,610 in loans were made by the division to 339 churches.

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Leonard Holloway
Takes Insurance Post

(8-7-63)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Leonard L. Holloway, vice-president for development and public relations of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has resigned effective Sept. 1. He will become president of a life insurance company with office in Norman, Okla.

The 40-year-old public relations practitioner will continue temporarily as executive director of the Southern Seminary Foundation.

During the 18 months Holloway has been with the seminary he has been responsible for establishing a new Conference and Research Center which gained national recognition through programs for pastors and laymen. He has directed public relations, fund raising, student recruiting and coordinated alumni affairs for the seminary.

For six years, 1953-59, he was director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Home Mission Board
Approves 14 Programs

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board created a new department, renamed others, and jumped its program arrangement from seven to 14.

All of the reorganization took place within the division of missions, with one department, that of survey and special studies, being moved out of the division. It was placed directly under the executive secretary, a position it formerly held.

"Survey and special studies actually serves all of our divisions, and the organization now reflects this service," said Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the agency.

The action took place at the mid-year meeting of the board at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

In doubling the programs from seven to 14, the board created programs of survey and special studies, church extension ministries, associational administration ministries, mission centers ministries, Jewish work ministries, special missions ministries and urban-rural ministries.

The city mission program was renamed metropolitan ministries program. Previous programs retained are evangelism, chaplaincy, church loans, language groups ministries, work with National Baptists, and pioneer ministries, which had been grouped with associational missions.

All Southern Baptist agencies now organize their work by programs. These must receive approval by the Southern Baptist Convention. They determine an agency's authorization for work in a given field, as well as becoming the basis for budget allocations from the Convention.

The board action reflects a program study now under way by the Southern Baptist Convention through its Executive Committee.

Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the division of missions, announced that studies are being made with the Executive Committee and other SBC agencies on the programs.

The new department created will consist of the programs of associational administrative ministries and church extension ministries.

"Personnel changes in the organization will probably be made by the annual board meeting in December," Rutledge said.

He indicated the only personnel changes effective now were the moving of the department of survey and special studies and a shifting of the ministries of literacy and of Catholic information to special missions ministries.

The department of associational missions was renamed the urban-rural ministries department, and the city missions department was renamed the metropolitan ministries department.

The new programs and organization changes simply recognize work the mission agency is already doing, Redford indicated.

The department of metropolitan ministries was given an enlarged scope. This department has served only those areas which have called themselves city mission programs.

Now the department will serve the 212 areas listed by the United States government as metropolitan areas. These are areas of 50,000 population or more which meet certain economic and social criteria.

The mission center ministries program, Jewish work ministries program and juvenile rehabilitation continue in this department.

The department of rural-urban ministries will serve communities of 50,000 population and less. In this department are church development ministries, in-service training and mountain missions.