

Decatur, Ga., Church
Gets Development Award

August 23, 1963

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The Oakhurst Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., a 1400-member congregation with a bilingual ministry, received Southern Baptists' National Church Development Award.

Churches in four membership categories were recognized by the Convention's Home Mission Board during the award presentations. They are annually a part of Home Missions Week at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly here.

Making the presentations was Lewis Newman of Atlanta, associate secretary of the associational missions department, in charge of the church development ministry.

One of the four category winners is cited as the outstanding church participating in the ministry. Last year it was a small Texas church with less than 200 members; this year, the Oakhurst church.

Category winners were the following:

Category I (less than 100 members): Otto Baptist Church, Otto, Tex.; Jim Sanders, pastor.

Category II (membership 100-199): Southside Baptist Church, Benoit, Miss. The award was received by John McBride, superintendent of missions for the Bolivar County Baptist Association.

Category III (membership 200-299): Salem Baptist Church, Tylertown, Miss. The award was received by J. D. Lundy, superintendent of missions for the Tylertown area.

Category IV (membership 300-up): Oakhurst Church.

The church development ministry stresses development toward a better church, a better community and a better world. It includes recognition of outstanding pastors and churches for their achievements in these areas.

At the heart of the ministry is a method of project planning by the entire church membership. The church is led to survey its community and its ministries. It adopts projects, and records its progress.

Ted Dougherty, pastor of the Oakhurst Church, said, "It was felt we needed a frank and thorough analysis of our program and community. The church development ministry gave it to us."

The church decided to give attention to the changing nature of its community. A deepening of the spiritual life of the people, better Bible study, more effective personal evangelism, and enlistment of leadership, were other phases.

When the ministry was instituted, three Wednesday nights were used in which the entire congregation participated in buzz groups on specific questions. Following the buzz sessions, the groups reassembled. Each group brought reports and a resource guest spoke.

Following these sessions, the church council assigned projects to the organizations.

During the time the church was in the church development ministry, it reported 120 soulwinners trained, and a 40 per cent increase in baptisms.

The relocating of Cuban families and the beginning of a Spanish Sunday school class, better Bible teaching as a result of testing class members, and the accomplishments of other projects were also cited.

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Dougherty said many of the accomplishments came as a part of the continuing program of the church, but the church development ministry gave an "excellent channel" for analysis and project assignment.

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Lottie Moon Goal
of \$11,850,000 Set

August 23, 1963

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Southern Baptists will seek to give the largest single offering ever made to foreign missions when they contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in December.

The goal of \$11,850,000 is an approximate 15 per cent increase over the 1962 offering which amounted to \$10,323,591.

Five million dollars of the anticipated receipts have been designated for operating expenses on the mission field.

Of that amount, \$1,067,557 will be placed in a general fund to pay the salaries of new missionaries, educate missionary children, provide advanced training of national workers, promote Woman's Missionary Union work on the foreign fields and care for other items related to the total mission outreach.

Africa, Europe and the Near East will claim \$1,316,084; Latin America, \$1,271,658, and the Orient, \$1,344,700.

This money will help maintain churches, schools, hospitals and goodwill centers, and will undergird the various types of mission work already established on the mission fields.

Additional allocations will be made at a later date to provide funds for the purchase of property and equipment, and money to erect new buildings and institutions.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board compiles allocations for the special offering after studying recommendations from the missions in the 53 countries where Southern Baptists serve.

The offering, promoted by Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary, is named in memory of Lottie Moon, early missionary to China.

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J. P. Allen Proposes
Christmas Peace Aim

August 23, 1963

GLORIETA , N. M. (BP)--A proposal to adopt Dec. 25 as a day for promoting world peace was advanced here by a Texas pastor.

J. P. Allen, of Forth Worth's Broadway Baptist Church, made it in an address to the annual Christian Life Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly. Theme for the conference was "The Things That Make for Peace."

"Christians really do not know what to do with Christmas," Allen declared. "Could this be the answer?--Give up the tinsel and the commercial orgy and turn the observance into a pageant of peace!"

Allen cited the angels' announcement of Christ's birth as scriptural authority for the idea.

"Let the gifts be to other peoples in other nations," continued Allen. "The Lottie Moon Offerings are already a beginning. Let the theme turn to practical steps for peace.

"New carols could be born, new drama material discovered, new appeals made to other nations to adopt Dec. 25 as a day for a pageant of world peace....It might make the old, old story very new indeed," he added.

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Allen said peace is the business of Christians, "More even than that of the Congress of the United States or the Assembly of the United Nations." He further pointed out Christianity, being a world religion, has something to say about world peace.

Citing the need for practical steps for peace, Allen challenged Southern Baptists to attempt new departures in promoting peace. He praised the efforts of student summer missionaries, of physicians through projects like "Operation Brother's Keeper," and of pastors and laymen in evangelistic endeavors like the New Life Crusade in Japan.

Allen stressed that such programs did not contradict established programs.

"Will the time come when a Southern Baptist missionary 'Peace Corps' might be operative?" asked Allen. "Technical people could give a year, some over sixty might give a lifetime, students would give two years, teachers a sabbatical year, doctors six months.

"Transportation and language barriers offer new circumstances. The spread of world madness offers new motivation," he said.

The conference was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Staff Changes Mark
Kansas Board Meeting

August 23, 1963

WICHITA (BP)--Two staff changes, one leaving and the other being employed, marked the executive board meeting here of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists. Both are effective Sept. 1.

J. Frank Davis, secretary of evangelism, announced his resignation to become pastor of Truett Memorial Southern Baptist Church, Long Beach, Calif.

Carl J. Swenson, Jr. of Port Arthur, Tex., was employed as Baptist student director on the campus of Kansas State College of Pittsburg.

He is a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., and has Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Religious Education degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

The Board made a minor change in the meeting place for the 1963 convention in November. It was to meet with an affiliated church in Omaha, Neb. Instead it will meet with the First Baptist Church of Bellevue, Neb., a suburb of Omaha.

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Caudill Visits Europe

August 23, 1963

R. Paul Caudill, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Memphis, went to Poland on a 17-day preaching mission at invitation of the Baptist Union of Poland. He was to visit Germany also before returning. (BP)

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Deaf Conference
Elects Bruffey

August 23, 1963

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Clifford Bruffey, missionary to the deaf in Jacksonville, Fla., has been elected president of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf.

The group held its 15th annual session at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here. It will meet again next summer in Glorieta, N. M., at the Baptist summer assembly.

Bruffey succeeds Robert Boltz, New Orleans. Over 240 deaf persons and Baptist workers with the deaf from 23 states registered here.

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New Mexico Budget
Kept At 1963 Level

August 23, 1963

ALBUQUERQUE (BP)--The mission board of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico has approved a Cooperative Program 1964 budget of \$565,000, with 27 per cent to be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The percentage to SBC causes remains the same as in 1963, when the budget is \$560,000.

In other action, the board:

--Approved overseas travel for two state Baptist workers.

--Employed an architect for a Baptist Student Center in Las Vegas, N. M., and met the new Baptist student teacher-director there.

--Put up for lease the Park View Baptist Medical Clinic property in remote north central New Mexico.

Harry P. Stagg, Albuquerque, convention executive secretary, was granted time to preach revivals in English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe.

Miss Vanita M. Baldwin, state Woman's Missionary Union secretary, was granted time next April and May to visit missions in Latin America, Europe and the Near East. The board will make a contribution toward her expenses but the main part of it will be hers to provide.

The new student center at New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, will be built in 1964. The new teacher-director is Glenn McCoy, for this Bible chair program.

Park View Medical Clinic was closed July 1. It served a remote area where medical help had been scarce. The clinic will be leased to a public health office at \$1 a year.

The total 1964 budget of \$1,145,194 includes designated offerings, three annual special mission offerings, and assistance from two SBC agencies for joint field work and promotion, as well as Cooperative Program income.

Budget figures are subject to approval by the annual convention.

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Cooperative Program
Movie To Be Ready Soon

August 23, 1963

NASHVILLE (BP)--A 28-minute color movie describing the Cooperative Program will soon be available to Baptist churches and associations.

Merrill D. Moore, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission here, announced the film will be circulated by stewardship departments of state Baptist conventions.

Churches and associations wanting to show the 16 mm. film, done by the SBC Sunday School Board on contract from the commission, should contact their state stewardship offices, he said.

Title of the movie is "Heartbeat." It portrays the struggle of a church to decide what it should do about supporting the Cooperative Program from its unified budget.

The Cooperative Program is the financial plan of Southern Baptists to support state convention as well as Southern Baptist Convention work in missions, education and benevolence.

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