

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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**Unity Group Urges More
SBC-ABC Cooperation**

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)--Prospects for greater accord between Baptists in the Southern and American Baptist Conventions are bright, but a merger of the two groups is unlikely in the foreseeable future, according to participants in a conference on Baptist unity here.

An unofficial gathering of pastors, laymen, college and seminary professors interested in wider Baptist cooperation drew 52 Southern Baptists, 23 American Baptists and seven from dually aligned churches.

Lawrence Slaght, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lowell, Mass., told the group, "Recognizing something of the nature, depth and age of the chasm separating Baptists it would appear ridiculous if not almost indecent to suggest possible merger."

Slaght added, however, "If the Southern Baptist Convention brought its clear and positive theological standards, its strong associational concepts and its evangelistic zeal to such a merger, and if the American Baptist Convention brought its abilities in social action, its sensitiveness to those in other Christian communities and its democratic spirit, that move might well be another reformation."

The conference participants, all of whom were from the Eastern Seaboard, passed one resolution:

"We recommend that the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, as an essential step to furthering mutual conversation and cooperation, distinguish between necessary and unnecessary territorial expansion on the North American Continent. An acceptable form of expansion is regarded as the ministry to those who lack a Baptist witness. An unacceptable form of expansion results from the beginning of competing churches in the same immediate area. We further recommend that home mission leaders of both conventions be advised of this statement and be requested to begin between themselves a discussion of ways to work together in the missionary witness to North America."

The conference did not spell out how far they felt Baptist churches should be separated to be out of "the same immediate area."

Denominational officials indicate that consultation on some aspects of home mission work has been going on for several years between several Baptist bodies in the United States.

The conference on Baptist unity was the second such informal and unofficial meeting held. The first one occurred a year ago.

Although no specific plans were made here, leaders of the discussion group indicated that a similar conference probably would be held sometime in 1964.

Howard Stewart, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Dover, Del., served as convener for the meeting.

HMB Gives Belew, Newman
New Mission Assignments

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention gave new mission assignments to staff members Wendell Belew and Lewis W. Newman, both of Atlanta.

Belew became secretary of the new association administration services and church extension department, and Newman became secretary of the revamped urban-rural missions department.

The staff changes reflected a new organizational alignment adopted for the missions division by the board at Glorieta in August. At that time the association administration services and church extension department was created and a changed emphasis given some other departments.

In directing the new department, Belew will work with state leadership and other agency personnel in seeking to strengthen associational administration of Southern Baptists and to promote church extension.

He will lead in "developing and communicating uniform basic techniques in these areas," according to Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the missions division.

"During the remainder of the 30,000 Movement, Belew will cooperate closely with 30,000 Movement leaders, especially C. C. Warren, the director of this effort," Rutledge said. "Thereafter, Belew will continue promotion of new missions and churches."

The urban-rural missions department continues most of the functions of the former associational missions department, of which Belew was secretary and Newman was associate secretary.

The biggest change came in limiting its services to cities of 50,000 population, where before it had served areas up to 100,000. Cities with more than 50,000 will be included in the metropolitan missions department.

Newman, in directing the urban-rural missions department, will be responsible for ministries in cities of 50,000 or less and for ministries in mountain missions, the rural church, church development, resort areas, and field guidance.

He will also guide in giving assistance to associations serving rural, mountain, and urban areas.

Belew a native of Kentucky, has been with the mission agency in Atlanta since 1956. Before that he was director of mountain missions in Kentucky.

Newman, a native of Texas, has been with the Home Mission Board since 1960. Before that he taught at the University of Corpus Christi.

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New York Expansion
Brings Staff Change

(10-11-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--Paul S. James of New York City will drop his pulpit ministry December 15 at Manhattan Baptist Church to give all his time to directing Southern Baptists' mission work in the metropolitan area.

He is doing so at the request of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. James, a vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been both pastor of the Manhattan Baptist Church and director of the mission work since 1957.

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Growth of the church to nearly 400 members and the opportunity for a more rapid expansion of the metropolitan work led to the division of James' tasks, according to A. B. Cash of Atlanta, secretary of the pioneer missions department for the mission agency.

Cash also said hundreds of other members of the Manhattan Church have helped form additional churches in the area.

Southern Baptists started work in the metropolitan center in 1957. That year James left the pastorate of Tabernacle Baptist Church, one of Atlanta's largest churches, to serve as pastor-director in New York.

Today in the Metropolitan Baptist Association alone there are 13 churches and 20 missions, including language work with the Spanish-speaking and Polish-speaking peoples.

There are also Southern Baptist churches in all of the northeastern states, the last area of the nation in which the denomination has started work. New York City served as the springboard from which many of these missions were started.

"The work in the northeast, which includes New York, is growing quite rapidly," Cash said. "The work in metropolitan New York City is in cooperation with the Baptist General Convention of Maryland."

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HMB to Enlist Students
For Evangelism Effort

(10-11-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--One hundred Southern Baptist students will be asked to hold summer revivals in 1964 in pastorless churches which have reported no baptisms in 12 months.

The evangelism effort was revealed in a report of the goals for the 1964 Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions, sponsored each spring by Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the SBC.

The new offering goal of \$3,500,000 includes \$50,000 for the student evangelism effort.

Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission agency, presented the report in his first appearance at the office since a heart attack in August.

"There were nearly 6,000 Southern Baptist churches which did not report a Baptism during the last year," Redford told the Board's executive committee in presenting the recommendation.

The offering goal also includes \$100,000 for an emphasis on the inner-city. This money will include assistance to mission centers and for juvenile rehabilitation work.

Other needs cited were mission pastoral aid, to get \$50,000 extra, and Latin American refugee relief, to receive \$30,000.

The church site fund was marked for \$200,000 and mission buildings for \$370,000. These two were placed at the end of a priority list, and will share proportionately if the goal is not reached.

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Bombed Church Gets \$2,000
From Baptist Missions

(10-11-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, will receive \$2000 from the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to help repair its recent bomb damage.

Four young Negro Sunday School pupils were killed when a racist's bomb shattered the church's building Sept. 15.

The church had given office space to headquarters for the Baptist education work of Southern Baptists in Birmingham until last June.

Guy Bellamy of Oklahoma City, Okla., secretary of the mission Agency's department of work with National Negro Baptists, said, "This \$2,000 partially expresses our sympathy in this tragedy and our appreciation to the church as our friends and co-laborers."

He said his workers had started using the office space in the building in 1953 when the late Dr. Luke Beard was pastor of the church. They changed last June when a new education center was completed.

The \$2,000 will be given the church through the department of work with National Baptists in Alabama. H. O. Hester of Montgomery, secretary of the department, will make the presentation to the church.

Southern Baptists through their state mission agencies and the Home Mission Board employ 77 workers with National Baptists in 33 states, for which they spend approximately \$500,000 annually.

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Honduras Baptist Seeks
Medical Aid for Child

(10-11-63)

DALLAS (BP)--A Honduras Baptist minister from revolution-torn Tegucigalpa has preached his way to Dallas to arrange special treatment for his daughter at Baylor University Hospital.

The child, Marlene Casco, who was born without a bladder, endeared doctors and nurses to her with her smiling optimism when she underwent surgery in 1954 at the same hospital. Now at the age of 13 she needs additional treatment.

Her pastor father, Arturo, who has 10 other children, had neither the money for the airplane trip to get Marlene to Dallas nor for the medical expenses.

Some Dallas Baptist churches have come to the Cascos' aid and will pay Marlene's plane fare. The Baylor Hospital Mother's Day Fund will take care of the medical expenses.

Acting on faith last August, Casco began the journey to Dallas, eventually preaching in 17 churches in Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Texas.

He has arranged to have Marlene enter Baylor Hospital Oct. 25. He says she is accepting the necessary treatment with good spirit as she did when she was only four. "She is not getting along too well," he confided.

More recently, his worries over his family were compounded by the revolution centered in their home town.

At home, the older Casco children help out with the family finances so that their father can devote more time to pastoring the 30-member San Felipe Mission organized in 1962. Casco helped found and became pastor of the first Baptist mission in Choluteca, Honduras, in 1949.

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McClung Inaugurated
As Wayland President

(10-11-63)

PLAINVIEW, Tex. (BP)--Ceremonies at Wayland Baptist College here officially inaugurated Roy C. McClung as the Baptist school's eighth president.

McClung, pastor of First Baptist Church in Plainview for five years, was elected president of Wayland College last January by the school's board of trustees. He assumed the presidency on July 1.

Principal speakers for the inauguration ceremonies were Kenneth Scott Latourette, author and former professor at Yale University; and Herschel H. Hobbs pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

Both Hobbs and Latourette have been presidents of Baptist conventions. Hobbs is the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Latourette was president of the American Baptist Convention in 1951.

Presiding over the inauguration ceremonies was A. Hope Owen of Lubbock, Tex., who preceeded McClung as president of Wayland. Owen now serves as president emeritus of the Baptist school.

The ceremonies were held at First Baptist Church of Plainview, where both McClung and Owen had served as pastor. Owen was pastor of the church for seven years, from 1946-1953.

McClung, 46, had previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Ada, Okla.; Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.; First Baptist Church, Hiseville, Ky.; and several small churches in Indiana and Oklahoma.

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Florida Man to Head New
Amarillo Baptist Hospital

(10-11-63)

AMARILLO, Tex. (BP)--Emmett R. Johnson of Jacksonville, Fla., has been named executive director of the Amarillo Area Foundation which will build and give to Texas Baptists a 200-bed hospital.

Johnson, who will begin his new duties Nov. 15, will become administrator of the \$5 million High Plains Baptist Hospital when it is completed--probably by 1967.

In Florida, Johnson has been assistant administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville. Previously, he had served six years as administrator of the Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Ky.

A graduate of North Texas State College, Denton, Tex., with a degree in business administration, Johnson also holds the master's degree from Northwestern University, Chicago. He is a Baptist deacon and a member of several hospital associations.

The High Plains Baptist Hospital, one of the first three buildings slated on the 300-acre Amarillo Medical Center, will be a 200-bed structure capable of expansion to 400-bed capacity.

The hospital, which the Baptist General Convention of Texas agreed to operate in 1962, will be built with contributions to the Amarillo Area Foundation.

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Baylor Public Relations
Assistant Dies Suddenly

WACO, Tex. (BP)--The 27-year-old assistant director of public relations for Baylor University here, Lyn D. Raney, died Oct. 8 of sleeping sickness.

Raney had served on the Baylor public relations staff and as a member of the journalism faculty since 1961.

He had been hospitalized with viral encephalitis since Sept. 22, and was in critical condition at Hillcrest Baptist Hospital, Waco, Texas.

Since July when Baylor public relations director Dave Cheavens suffered a heart attack, Raney had carried most of the load in directing Baylor's public relations efforts. Cheavens, hospitalized for more than a month, is now working only a few hours a day in his dual job as public relations director and journalism chairman.

Before coming to Baylor, Raney had served on staffs of the Waco Tribune-Herald, the Temple Daily Telegram, and Bell Telephone Co. in Houston.

He is a graduate of Baylor with the bachelor of arts degree in journalism.

Funeral services were held Oct. 9 at Seventh and James Baptist Church. Raney is survived by his wife, four daughters, his parents, two brothers and one sister.

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Baptist Prof Joins
Hebron Excavation

(10-11-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Robert O. Coleman, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, will join a team of American archaeologists in excavating Hebron, the site of the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Hebron, located 25 miles south of Jerusalem, is the last major Biblical site in the Holy Land still unexcavated. The expedition will take place in the summer of 1964.

Hebron is the traditional campsite of Abraham, whose body is supposed to have been returned there for burial. Also buried there were his wife, Sarah, and his sons, Isaac and Jacob. It is also the site of the capital city of King David.

Coleman, a native of Dallas, is professor of Biblical instruction and Old Testament at Southwestern Seminary. He is a member of the Texas Tarrant County and the Dallas Archaeological Societies, and is president of the Dallas group.

The expedition will be directed by Professor Phillip C. Hammond of Princeton Theological Seminary. The University of Southern California, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Friends of the Middle East and other U. S. educational institutions and agencies will take part in the excavation.

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Father of George Schroeder
Dies in Pinckneyville, Ill.

(10-11-63)

PINCKNEYVILLE, Ill. (BP)--Services for George H. Schroeder, of Pinckneyville, father of George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, were held Oct. 7 at Doerr Funeral Home here. Burial was in Pinckneyville cemetery.

Schroeder, a retired locomotive engineer, died Oct. 5 at Pinckneyville Hospital after an illness of four months. His son, a leader of Baptist laymen, lives at Memphis, Tenn., where offices of the Brotherhood Commission are.

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Roden Named Department
Head for Radio-TV Agency

(10-11-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Charles Roden has been named head of the department of market development and scheduling for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

Roden has served as co-director of the department for the past 16 months. His promotion as director became effective when James T. Johns was named editor of the Beam, the Radio-TV Commission's monthly magazine.

A native of Shreveport, La., Roden joined the commission staff in 1957 as a part-time worker while a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After receiving his seminary degree, he assumed full-time duties as head of the commission's distribution department.

In his new position, Roden will be responsible for radio and television station contacts and getting commission-produced programs on the air. He also will continue to supervise the distribution of radio tapes and television films.

Roden is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and Baylor University, (Baptist), Waco, Tex.

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Academy Approves
Chapel Construction

(10-11-63)

SAN MARCOS, Tex. (BP)--Construction of a new chapel for San Marcos Baptist Academy has been tentatively approved by the Baptist school's board of trustees.

Board Chairman Vernon Elmore of San Antonio said that the school hopes to break ground on the new chapel in the spring, "if the financial posture of the Academy remains as strong in the next several months as it presently is."

The proposed chapel will be built atop a ridge overlooking the Academy's main entrance. The chapel as designed by an Austin, Tex., architectural firm would have a high tower which could be seen for miles, said Elmore.

In other action, the board of trustees approved a budget of \$1.3 million. Murray Harper, member of the trustees finance committee, said that Academy income should double the 1960 figure by mid-term of this year.

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HMB Appoints 16
For Mission Work

(10-11-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has commissioned 16 missionaries to various ministries across the United States, including work with the deaf, Spanish-speaking, and Negroes.

The recent appointments make a total of 2,201 missionaries now serving under this agency, most in cooperation with state mission boards.

Inability to tell Mexican braceros about Christ in Texas led to a Spanish ministry in Michigan for one missionary. Eugene Bragg saw this need long before his seminary studies, but even after finishing, felt inadequate with the Spanish language.

Sent to Michigan as a missions pastor, however, he was offered a job--teaching Spanish. As he taught, he also learned, and today his fluency and long felt concern give a Christian witness to Spanish braceros when they migrate to Michigan's fields. He and his wife have been commissioned for Spanish work in Detroit.

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Leon Emery, commissioned to service in Jackson, Miss., will work as an associate in the department of cooperative missions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He is a native of Greenville, Miss., and has studied at North Greenville Junior College, Taylors, S. C.; Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans.

In addition, he has been a pastor and associational superintendent of missions in Mississippi.

Ronald S. Griffin, a native of Securry, Tex., has been commissioned as an area missionary in Hamilton, Ohio. He holds degrees from the University of Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, Tex.; and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Kenneth W. Neibel, commissioned as area missionary in Crystal Lake, Ill., is a native of Frankford, Ill. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., and Southwestern Seminary. He has held pastorates in Illinois and Texas.

Emery P. Collins has been commissioned as city superintendent of missions in Garden Grove, Calif. He was graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and California Baptist Theological Seminary, Covina, Calif. Previous experience includes serving as a pastor in Houston, Tex.; Richland, Wash.; and Anaheim, Calif.

Patricia Fay Ervin, named for mission center work in Savannah, Ga., was born in Winston-Salem, N. C. She received degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and from Southwestern Seminary.

Mary E. Jones, commissioned as a mission center worker in Atlanta, is a native of colonial Beach, Va. Her education includes degrees from Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Va.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Eugene Bragg, commissioned to serve in Detroit, holds degrees from Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex.; Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Tex.; and Southwestern Seminary. Since then he has served as a pastor and a teacher.

Mrs. Bragg (Nanelle) was also named to serve in Language missions with her husband. She is a native of Atlanta, and holds degrees from Emory University School of Nursing, Atlanta, and Southwestern Seminary.

Jerry St. John, a native of Bastrop, La., was commissioned to serve in Jackson, Miss. He received degrees from Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He has served as a pastor in Hermitage and Wooster, Ark.

Mrs. St. John (Erkle Eldean) was commissioned to serve with her husband in language missions in Jackson, Miss. She is a native of Conway, Ark. She studied at Arkansas State Teachers College, Conway, Ark.; Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and Golden Gate Seminary.

Charles E. Holliday, a native of Liberty, S. C., was commissioned to serve as a teacher missionary of National Baptists in Beauford, S. C. His education includes degrees from Furman University, Greenville, S. C.; and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He served as a mission pastor in Ashland, Ky., and in Hilton Head Island, S. C.

Robert Leslie Parker, Jr. was commissioned to serve as a teacher missionary of National Baptists in Jefferson City, Mo. He is a native of Mayfield, Ky., and attended Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; and Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill. He received degrees from Howard University, Washington, D. C.; and Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo.

Mrs. Ethel Celeste Wilson has been named teacher missionary to serve in Columbia, S. C., her home town. She was graduated from Benedict College, Columbia, S. C.; and from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. At the present, she is a teacher at Benedict College.

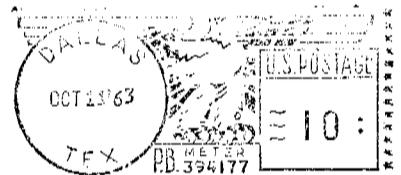
W. Ross Harmonson, a native of Meadow, Tex., was commissioned to serve as a pastoral missionary in Aberdeen, S. D. He was educated at Wayland Baptist College Plainview, Tex., and Golden Gate Seminary.

Eddie Henson, commissioned as a mountain missionary in Cedar City, Utah, holds degrees from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Rickey, Mo., he has served as a pastor in Missouri and Kentucky.

K. Medford Hutson, commissioned as a mountain missionary to serve in Cedar City, Utah, is a native of Forrest, Tex. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Tex., and of Southwestern Seminary.



103 BAPTIST BUILDING
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