

October 17, 1963

**Dayton Pastor Helps
Ease Racial Tension**

DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor here stood with some other ministers at a public school to help forestall an anti-Negro demonstration in a newly integrated suburban community.

He is Robert L. Crady of the Townview Baptist Church, the only Baptist church in this section of Dayton and largest of any denomination in the immediate area.

A Negro family had moved into the previously all-White neighborhood after darkness, with ut prior knowledge of the nearby residents.

Townview Church is located a block from and in sight of the home into which the Negroes moved.

It was after a prayer meeting service in the church that Crady said he first became aware of their presence. Chanting and yelling were heard coming from the direction of the home occupied by the Negro family and Crady asked some of his members what the commotion was about.

"Why, don't you know a Negro family moved in down there Tuesday night, and they are demonstrating against them?" he was informed. Teen-agers, urged on by adults, were leading the noise-making.

Crady said the next morning he visited his members to see if they had been a part of the rock-throwing, window-smashing demonstration against the Negro family.

"I wanted to see if they were mixed up in this, and also how they felt about it," he disclosed.

In one family living next door to the Negro family, the wife and children attend Townview Church.

It was on the appeal of the school superintendent that Crady and other neighborhood ministers stood at the school as the 7-year-old daughter of the Negro family arrived for her classes there.

Some irate mothers in the community planned to condemn the school superintendent and marched on the school. But, as one woman from another denomination said after the mothers dispersed, "What could I do when I saw my minister and the other ministers standing there?"

Not all of the Townview Church members believe in integration, Crady said he learned from his visit to his members, but one statement at a Baptist home was:

"We aren't for integration but it's here and we're going to accept it and be Adult and Christian about the matter. We have money invested in our home here. This is our community and we cannot afford to leave it."

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**3 Names Evidence
Church's Changeover**

(10-17-63)

SYRACUSE, N. Y. (BP)--People passing by a church building here probably have wond red what it was all about.

The church had three names on it.

On the c rnerstone was the name: Christian and Missionary Alliance of Syracuse
1890 1910 1914.

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On the lighted glass-front sermon announcement sign was the name: First Southern Baptist Church. But even this was no longer correct.

And, braced on an outside window sill around the corner was a posterboard, saying: Future home of Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ--New York State Council.

Actually, all three names were true, but not at the same time.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Syracuse built the church. Southern Baptists in Syracuse bought the church from this group when they organized a church here. The Christian and Missionary Alliance moved to a new location.

Now Southern Baptists have moved to a new location, a mile or two south. Along with the move, they acquired a new name. Henceforth, the church will be called Central Baptist Church.

The title, "Southern," has been dropped because of misunderstanding by residents, Baptist leaders in the area reported. It too often was thought of as sectional, hence the remark sometimes heard: "I am not Southern so I would not be welcome there."

Southern Baptists have sold their site, the former Christian and Missionary Alliance site, to a Negro church group--the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. During the transition, the church had three names in evidence.

They are using the sale price of the old site to apply to the price of the former Lutheran church plant they have bought for \$60,000.

The Syracuse church probably is the first Southern Baptist church this far north to have, at least temporarily, its own recreation rooms.

The Lutheran church building included a basketball court and a two-lane bowling alley. Pastor John Tollison said the church would divert the basketball floor to education space but might keep the bowling lanes intact to attract young people.

Central Church, Syracuse, has 204 enrolled in Sunday school. The auditorium of the Lutheran church, which it was to occupy right away, seats approximately 300.

One of the first construction projects facing the Syracuse church at the new site is installing a baptistry. It shares this in common with several other Southern Baptist churches in western New York state and western Pennsylvania, which have bought church buildings from other denominations, and must go elsewhere to baptize converts.

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Furman Board Votes
Interracial Policy

(10-17-63)

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Furman University here became the first college in South Carolina voluntarily to adopt a policy by which applications from all qualified students will be accepted.

At the conclusion of a trustee meeting, J. Wilbert Wood of Anderson, chairman of the board, made the following announcement: "The board of trustees of Furman University approved a resolution that Furman University consider applications for admission from all qualified applicants."

Furman University--Southern Baptist maintained--is the first private college in the state to take action to lower the color bar. Both Clemson College and the University of South Carolina, state-supported institutions, have already admitted Negro students, after Federal Court order.

"The board feels that this is the right thing to do and the proper time to take action on this matter," Wood declared. He noted this action had been discussed by the board at previous meetings.

For some time the board has had before it recommendations approved by both the Furman faculty and the student body that applications from all qualified applicants be accepted by the university.

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Wood specified the matter of Negro applications is now in the hands of the Furman University administration, which will make plans for receiving and processing all applications from qualified students.

John L. Plyler, Furman's president, said a study of the entire matter will be made by the administration. All applications from Negroes will be handled the same as all other applications, he indicated.

Several other Southern Baptist colleges have taken action similar to Furman's. So far, Furman has received no applications from Negroes, Plyler said.

In other action, trustees asked a special committee to study the need of a two-year college of basic medical sciences at Furman.

Their action followed a proposal from a local study committee for a medical school in Greenville.