

October 18, 1963

**Colorado Authorizes
New Office Building**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (BP)--The Colorado Baptist General Convention in its 1963 session here authorized its executive board to borrow \$140,000 to buy a site for and build a new convention office building.

It would be located south of Denver on Interstate 25. The building is to be ready to occupy Jan. 1. Present offices are at 1470 S. Holly in Denver.

The Colorado convention, meeting in one of the five states other than Colorado which it also serves, elected Harvey L. Nelson as president. Nelson is pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church, Denver.

The convention adopted a 1964 budget of \$388,474. The Cooperative Program goal makes up \$210,000 of this total. The share going to support Southern Baptist Convention work was increased from 14 per cent of Cooperative Program receipts in 1963 to 15 per cent of that amount in 1964.

Total membership in affiliated churches in Colorado, Wyoming, North and South Dakotas, Montana and western Nebraska was reported at 31,000.

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**W. Perry Crouch Gets
Carolina Nomination**

(10-18-63)

RALEIGH (BP)--William Perry Crouch, whom unofficial reports had indicated would be nominated, has been recommended as the next general secretary for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Crouch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., since 1944, was the unanimous choice of the nominating committee of the Baptist General Board.

At a board meeting here, his nomination was approved on secret ballot by 66 to 7 margin. There were no other nominations.

Unlike some other state Baptist conventions, in North Carolina the general secretary cannot be elected by the general board alone. The vote must be taken also at the annual Baptist state convention. The 1963 convention meets in Wilmington in November.

Crouch, who goes by his middle name, was born near Hickory, N. C., July 24, 1907. He has a master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Lenoir-Rhyne College, Lutheran school at Hickory, from which he also earned the bachelor of arts degree.

He was ordained to the Baptist ministry in 1929 at Hickory. He is a former member of the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission and SBC Executive Committee. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, N. C., has him as a trustee at the present.

Former pastorates were in Hollis, Okla., and in Morganton and Fayetteville, both in North Carolina. From 1936 to 1941, Crouch was secretary of Christian education for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

In a surprise recommendation, the North Carolina board will ask the convention at Wilmington to authorize it to "negotiate the sale of Baptist state convention properties located at...Raleigh, and...to proceed with plans to erect a new building on a new site."

The present state convention office building at 301 Hillsboro St. was occupied only in 1957. Vehicle noise from the state's most heavily traveled highway, forming the eastern street boundary for the building, was considered a factor in the recommendation.

Also, a makeshift parking lot next door, needed for overflow parking for people coming to the building, was lost when a downtown motel was erected there.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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October 18, 1963

Northerners Advance
Southern Baptist Work

By Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press Staff Writer

The Yankees of western Pennsylvania and western New York are taking a second, and more serious look at Southern Baptists.

Old-timers living in the region may have discounted the Southern Baptists when their churches came into existence several years ago at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and Pittsburgh, Pa.

But with the spread of the work to other cities--Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Erie and Elmira--and with the building or buying of permanent church buildings, they have had to reappraise the denomination.

Under the watchful guidance of men like Joe Waltz in Pittsburgh and Chuck Magruder in western New York the work grows. More and more natives of the area where churches are located have joined them.

Southern Baptists are showing they can thrive in the 10-weight oil weather of the North as well as in the 30-weight weather of south Texas.

They have had to adapt on ways and means, without affecting doctrine and program.

Unlike the tendency on some Southern Baptist pioneer mission fields, churches in this western Pennsylvania-New York region have shied away from two expressions which they said created some misunderstanding.

The first term is "Southern." Used in the title of the church, as First Southern Baptist Church, many pastors feel it handicaps their enlistment of Northerners.

"Southern; Isn't that just for Baptists from the South?" they are asked.

So it is, for the most part, omitted from the formal names of churches organized in this area. The words "Southern Baptist Convention" usually do appear, in smaller letters, on churchyard signs under the church name.

The pastors are Southern Baptist-educated if not also Southern born. Both Waltz and Magruder are Northern born, Waltz by the width of the Ohio River which separated his birthplace in Indiana from Kentucky, and Magruder at Zanesville in east central Ohio. (The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio sponsors these pioneer mission programs.)

At least two Oklahomans reversed the trend of finding pioneer mission openings in the West and have come east--Charles F. (Freddy) Marks at Beaver, Pa., downstream from Pittsburgh, and Ted Cromer at Monroeville, a Pittsburgh suburb with \$40,000 homes.

The second term to be changed is the word, "mission," the outreach of a church. Mission, according to Waltz, brings to mind rescue missions to most native Pittsburghers.

So what to Southern Baptists in the South is a "mission" is usually called a "chapel" in Pittsburgh, Rochester, Buffalo and the other cities of this region.

So far Pittsburgh has no such institutional ministry, but Waltz reports it is coming when churches are more solidly rooted and have more financial means to support rescue mission and other ministries.

Noticeably absent from the scene, too, is the storefront church. "This wouldn't have worked in Pittsburgh," declares Joseph M. Waltz, who is for the time being both pastor of Pittsburgh Baptist Church, the mother church in the city, and director of church extension in the area.

"As we get stronger," he adds, "we will come to have storefront churches in older areas."

The closest to it, maybe, is the one-time beer parlor now serving as meeting house for a chapel in Alexandria Bay, N. Y., at the United States end of the Thousand Islands Bridge across the St. Lawrence Seaway into Canada.

This summer resort city bulges at its seams in tourist season.

Alexandria Bay and the other western New York churches and chapels, plus a few in extreme northern Pennsylvania, are guided by area missionary Charles E. Magruder. Magruder lives in suburban Buffalo or Syracuse, depending on whether he's found a buyer for his Buffalo residence yet.

The area he serves is being divided. Buffalo will be the nerve center of the Frontier Baptist Association, Syracuse for the Central Baptist Association. Chuck Magruder will be with Central Association and a new missionary will be called for Frontier Association.

If the picture you've had of Southern Baptist work in this region is entirely metropolitan--big city--scrap it. Sure, the metropolitan area will be the most prominent and numerically strong but the rural areas adjoining them aren't being ignored.

Take Imperial, Pa., just beyond the Pittsburgh Airport, which attracts coal miners as well as airlines employees. Also Mallory, N. Y., 25 minutes on the freeway north of Syracuse where Ansel Gambrell, formerly a rural South Carolina pastor, is leading in a church building program in the rural New York community.

Last summer, Mallory Baptist Chapel had 105 children in Vacation Bible School. Thirty-five Primaries met in the century-old building used by a long disbanded Methodist church, which Mallory Chapel moved into for services.

The Intermediates met on the sun porch of a member's home across from the church building. The Nursery met three miles east of the chapel at another home. The Juniors met in the red barn over the hill back of the church. The Beginners? Why, they were a mile west meeting in another home.

Mallory Chapel is erecting a new plant all its own. The builder, a "wood butcher" who came North from South Carolina, talks in his "Y'all" drawl to a crisp-voiced New Yorker church member working alongside him.

They're shooting for a completed building before the snow gets too deep for the over 100 folks who attend. Easter Sunday set a record of 170 present.

These rural opportunities exist in the region because, Magruder explains, the other denominations have ignored them.

The key to the success of the Northern Southern Baptist work is the pastor of each church and chapel.

If you offered Joe Waltz \$10,000 to buy choice property for future churches on one hand or to help pay pastors enough to let them be full-time pastors for a couple of years, his choice would be easy.

"I'd use the money to secure good leadership. The matter of property would take care of itself later," he affirms.

Thanks to liberalized supplements in some locales from the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, salaries of many pastors are enough to permit them to serve churches full time.

This is not universally true, as in Lockport, N. Y., where the pastor spends his Thursday off from a department store job on a building which will relieve his home next door from basement and living room Sunday school classes and worship.

Is the program of Southern Baptist churches attracting native residents? The Monongahela River city of Charleroi, south of Pittsburgh, is one answer. Membership is 80 per cent native. West, at Beaver, Pa., it's nearer 90 per cent.

But transplanted Southerners almost always form the nucleus around which a chapel begins with a handful of families in a home fellowship.

Baptist Press Photo

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Cutlines

ATLANTIC CITY SPEAKER--The former Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker, a Baptist, will be one of the principal speakers for the Third Baptist Jubilee Celebration, Atlantic City, N. J., May 22-24, 1964. Seven Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada are sponsoring the event. (BP) Photo by Ashley & Crippen