

November 10, 1963

**Chattanooga Survey
Finds High Membership**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP)--A house-to-house survey of 150,000 residents of Chattanooga indicated 72.5 per cent are members of churches.

Leonard G. Irwin of Atlanta, secretary of the department of survey and special studies for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, directed the survey and released the figures.

Irwin commented the city is "an above average church area compared with the national average of 63.4 per cent."

However, other figures he gave showed 12.1 per cent hold membership outside the area in which they live, and another 16.1 per cent of the local church members seldom or never attend church activities.

One hundred ten churches, representing 14 denominations, provided 3,500 workers for the survey. Although Negro churches were invited, they did not participate.

The survey revealed 27.3 per cent of the children nine years and younger seldom or never attend church activities, while 72.7 per cent go at least once a month.

Irwin also released the relative strength of the denominations in Chattanooga. They are Baptists--51.6 per cent, Methodists--17.1 per cent, Presbyterians--8 per cent, Church of Christ--5.3 per cent, Catholics--3.9 per cent, Church of God--3.6 per cent, Episcopalians--2.5 per cent, Christians (Disciples)--1.4 per cent, Lutherans--1.2 per cent, and Jewish--1 per cent.

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**New Jersey Has 300th
Anniversary In 1964**

(11-10-63)

By the Baptist Press

For the state of New Jersey and Baptists of North America who will meet in that state next year, 1964 has special meaning--it's an anniversary year for both of them.

It will be the 300th birthday--called tercentenary--for the state of New Jersey. It will be the 150th birthday--called sesquicentennial--of organized Baptist work on a national scale in North America.

Baptists have chosen Atlantic City, one of New Jersey's most popular seashore resorts and convention cities, for their Third Jubilee Celebration.

And, if two birthdays aren't enough, Baptists who venture to New York City for the World's Fair can make it three. They will help that city mark a birthday also. Like the state of New Jersey, New York City is also 300 years old.

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**New Jersey Forests
Offer Camping Sites**

(11-10-63)

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (BP)--Three New Jersey state forests will take advance reservations for camp sites to be used by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, May 18-24, 1964, here. They are:

Lebanon State Forest at New Lisbon, N. J.

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Bass River State Forest at New Gretna, N. J.

Belle Plain at Woodbine R. D. No. 1, N. J.

Application forms and descriptive leaflets are available directly from the three state forests at the addresses given. The rate per unit is from \$1.25 to \$1.50 for a 24-hour period. Both tents and trailers can be accommodated.

Those desiring to use these camp sites should act quickly because the reservation process begins six months ahead of date of use.

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Michigan Will Expand
Downtown Institution

(11-10-63)

FLINT, Mich. (BP)--The Baptist State Convention of Michigan voted here to issue \$100,000 in bonds to secure more property in downtown Detroit for its young educational and institutional ministry.

Two buildings adjacent to one already owned by the convention would be bought with bond issue funds. The convention would tear them down and make parking lots for what it will call the Baptist Center.

Michigan Southern Baptists already have entered a five-story building on Cass Ave., near Wayne State University, it was reported. The convention's offices in the suburbs are moving to the new location to occupy one floor of the building.

Three other floors are being used in an institutional ministry for Christian counseling and mental rehabilitation. The basement floor has a dining room and other facilities.

The convention expects to buy yet more buildings, and to use this property for more of its institutional ministry and city missions program, Executive Secretary Fred D. Hubbs of Detroit said.

In a joint program with the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, it plans to offer a daytime ministry for marriage and family counseling and to teach homemaking. Evening classes would be held for alcoholics and drug addicts.

The Baptist Center would also provide seminary extension courses for pastors. Later, it would house a Baptist chair of Bible, offering classes in Bible and church administration for students of Wayne State, Hubbs continued.

City missions offices, the offices of center personnel, a gymnasium and an auditorium would be included in the proposed \$250,000 structure.

Hubbs said the Home Mission Board will provide \$60,000 for the structure, the Michigan convention has allocated the same amount, and the rest, he hopes, will come through private foundations or other outside sources.

Three psychologists will work in the counseling and rehabilitation programs, he said.

Room for a Baptist Book Store is also planned in the new Baptist Center.

In other action, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan adopted a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$143,372. Twenty-five per cent will support SBC agency work.

The convention's total 1964 budget includes also supplements from the SBC Home Mission and Sunday School Boards for jointly promoted work. The total budget amounts to \$235,218.

Messengers learned there are 123 churches and 27 missions affiliated with the state convention. Membership hovers around 25,000, the minimum requirement for Michigians to be elected as representatives on SBC agencies.

Hubbs said the state convention plans to apply for SBC recognition in 1964.

Hubert G. Keefer, pastor at St. Clair Shores, was elected president. The 1964 convention will meet Nov. 3-4 at Roseville, a Detroit suburb.

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EDITORS: In its story of Nov. 2, headlined Baptist Press Survey Shows Racial Picture, the Baptist Press did not have available the following information on racial segregation or desegregation in Baptist life in the following states. We present it here as an addendum to that story.

Arkansas--Ouachita Baptist College enroled a married couple from Southern Rhodesia, recommended by Southern Baptist missionaries who were Ouachita alumni. It has not had any American Negroes on its campus in Arkadelphia. The church in that city received the Rhodesians into membership, reportedly by a 2 to 1 margin in a church vote.

Michigan--On the upper peninsula, a church near a military base has Negro members. On the lower peninsula, there is no report of Negroes visiting Southern Baptist churches, nor joining them.

North Carolina--Three of seven colleges are integrated--Wake Forest at Winston-Salem, Mars Hill in the city of that same name, and Meredith (for women) at Raleigh--but no Negroes have enroled at Meredith.

Four churches have accepted Negro members. They include the college church at Winston-Salem, one in the college city of Chapel Hill where a Negro was associate pastor during the summer, the church in the seminary town of Wake Forest, and a church near Hickory, where a Negro once directed the church choir.

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Note to editors:

(11-10-63)

The House of Representatives has approved the conference report on the higher education bill in a vote of 258-92, with no opposing debate. It now goes to the Senate. See earlier Washington story, Compromise Reached On College Aid Bill, for details of the compromise bill reported by the conference committee.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D., N. C.), who sponsored the judicial review in the Senate, plans to lead a fight to get the Senate to reject the conference report. Senate is expected to take this up after completing debate on the foreign aid bill, possibly the middle of next week.

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C. E. Vincent Called

(11-10-63)

KANSAS CITY, Kans. (BP)--Charles E. Vincent, pastor, Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky., has been called to First Southern Baptist Church here, and will assume pastorate Dec. 8.

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Arkansas Approves
Mental Health Unit

(11-10-63)

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--Supporters of a proposed mental health unit for Arkansas Baptist Hospital successfully overrode objections based on church-state issues at the annual Arkansas Baptist State Convention here.

The vote was 297 to 262 for the proposal. Messenger registration was 987. The proposal came from the convention executive board and the hospital board.

The unit will be built by a private corporation, which would secure Hill-Burton federal aid to help finance it. The hospital, a convention agency, will lease the unit from the private corporation.

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Opponents charged the private corporation was only a subterfuge to get around church-state issues present in taking federal funds for a religious institution.

Administrator John Gilbreath said, in rebuttal, if the hospital were to be limited to Baptist money alone for its development, it might as well be closed. He pointed out the convention appropriation is only a fraction of the hospital's operating cost. He denied any subterfuge.

The mental health facility will be built adjoining the hospital in Little Rock. It will be constructed on land which is in an urban renewal area, something also raised in the church-state discussion of the project.

Supporters said the group will pay a "fair appraisal" price for the land.

The unit will cost over \$1.5 million. There was no question about the need for it, the question was over the way proposed to provide it.

In other action, the convention adopted a \$2,213,535 budget for 1964. The Cooperative Program portion includes \$706,652 to be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for nationwide and worldwide work.

It elected Walter L. Yeldell, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Hot Springs, its new president. It voted to meet next year in ElDorado Nov. 2-5.

T. Clyde Hart, secretary of race relations and Negro work for the convention, urged the convention's affiliated churches to seat a Negro who comes to worship "As you would (seat) anybody else."

He declared if one comes on behalf of some organization to test the church, the church by seating him will defeat any expectation that Negroes would be turned away.

If he comes sincerely, Hart went on, then everyone will be blessed "by his being in the worship service."

M. Ray McKay, seminary professor, told Arkansas messengers "Baptists will never convert the world for God till they love people without regard for color or merit."

McKay is professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

He said Arkansawyers must "settle your own problems on this race issue" but he declared "love must be the motivation and the solution of our race problems ought to be...in accord with Christian love."

In the president's address, C. Z. Holland of Jonesboro said the Christian gospel could not be removed from politics and economics by quoting Jesus when he said, "My kingdom is not of this world." He said faith and actual life cannot be divorced.