

November 27, 1963

**SBC Leaders Deplore
'Hate' In Assassination**

By the Baptist Press

Southern Baptist leaders deplored the "forces of hate" and "political deterioration" which led someone to shoot and kill President John F. Kennedy as he paraded through Dallas, Tex., in a motorcade.

President K. Owen White was at his home in Houston when the lunch hour bulletin flashed from across the state.

"This is a national tragedy," the Convention president said. "I am personally shaken by it. From the time of his election I have prayed both privately and publicly for the President. I pray now for the members of his family, and for the vice-president who must shoulder the responsibilities of leadership, and for our nation that we will seek divine leadership also."

Executive Secretary Porter Routh of the SBC Executive Committee sat silently and stunned as he listened to an office intercom system at Nashville feed radio bulletins through the SBC building there.

After he heard the report of the death, Routh wrote:

"Southern Baptists join with all Christians and Americans in expressing the deepest sympathy to Mrs. John Kennedy and to the children following the death of the President. We deplore the forces of hate which create a climate of anarchy and murder in our nation. We join in prayer that God shall give strength and guidance to President Lyndon Johnson as he assumes the heavy responsibility of the office in a distraught world."

In Washington, C. Emanuel Carlson, director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, left his third-floor office to listen to a radio in the lobby of the Baptist Building.

Then he declared: "No language contains the words for describing the tragedy involved in the assassination of the President of the United States. As a nation of stunned people gather their thoughts in the midst of grief serious reflections must take place.

"Many brave and great men have died before. Death is always tragic. However, now we are made aware that the political mentality of some people in our nation has so deteriorated that someone has taken the life of the President.

"One would wish to believe that back of this tragedy is simple mental illness. However, this peculiar manifestation of illness can hardly be dissociated from the waves of political hatred which have been fanned by engineers of animosity. Regardless of the facts of crime and guilt which are yet to be known the President's death shocks us into awareness of social illness which threatens both democracy and freedom."

From his home in Washington, where he is recovering from an illness, Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, 'phoned in his saddened comment:

"The Baptists of the world are deeply shocked and grieved at the assassination of President Kennedy. We will remember his family in prayer and ask God's guidance for President Johnson in his leadership of our nation in these critical days at home and abroad."

In Dallas, where offices of the Baptist General Convention of Texas are located, editor E. S. James of the Baptist Standard had already arrived at the Trade Mart where he was to attend a luncheon. President Kennedy was to go there from the parade, and address the luncheon guests.

James heard the announcement at the Trade Mart. The editor of Baptists' largest weekly paper, James had had an audience with Kennedy several months ago.

This is how James summed up the tragic news:

"The world is engulfed in sorrow over the brutal assassination of President Kennedy. Right thinking Texans will always grieve that such a dastardly crime should have been committed in their state. It is true that many disagreed with the President on his political views, but now that he is gone perhaps his untimely death may awaken the nation to the fact that elected officials are the servants of all the people and that the time has come for all groups to cease their unfounded accusations against people who are doing their best to serve the whole nation.

"I probably knew President Kennedy about as well as any other minister knew him, and I grieve deeply that he met his death in such an untimely hour and in this tragic manner."

The shooting took place at about 12:30 P. M. Central Standard (Dallas) Time. About 10 minutes before this the motorcade had passed within two blocks of the Baptist Building, housing administrative offices of the Texas convention.

Baptist Press Reporter Jim Newton along with numbers of other Dallas Baptist employees had taken the lunch hour to see the President pass. He was shot a mile farther along the parade route.

T. A. Patterson of Dallas, executive secretary of the Texas convention, could hardly imagine the event occurred in that city. His reaction to the killing follows:

"It is almost impossible to believe a tragedy of this kind could happen. Yet it has! There is no way to express adequately our grief. Surely all who pray will call upon the name of the Lord, asking for his blessing to be upon the bereaved family for his guidance in the affairs of our nation in this hour of crisis."

Patterson was at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel attending an informal interracial meeting of White and Negro Baptist leaders when the news was announced. They stopped for a season of prayer.

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Filmstrip Outlines Revival Preparation

(11-27-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--A step-by-step presentation of how Southern Baptist churches prepare for a revival has been placed in a filmstrip released by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Soul-Winning Through Revival Preparation," a 54-frame, color filmstrip, begins with one man's profession of faith during a revival and then shows all the preparation which led to this act.

"We feel Southern Baptists have a unique ministry in the area of evangelism, and this filmstrip seeks to capture it," said J. C. Durham Jr., Atlanta, secretary of the department of promotion.

"The filmstrip shows how the preparation made for the revival over a six-month period resulted in more church member participation and an atmosphere of concern in which the Holy Spirit could work," he said.

Each frame of the filmstrip is pictured in the accompanying script, which is also designed for use as a tract. Free copies of the script are available from the Home Mission Board. The filmstrip is sold through the Baptist Book Stores. Another release of the board's evangelism division, "The Revival Plan Book For 1964," was a part of the November issue of "Home Missions" magazine.

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Rogers Leaves Board

(11-27-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--Ralph Rogers of Atlanta, photographer and technician for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for six years, has accepted work with the motion picture department of the Lockheed Corp. at Marietta, Ga. He will be a cinematographer for the company.

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November 27, 1963

Thousands Pay Respect In
Dallas Memorial Services

By Al Shackelford

DALLAS (BP)--In funeral services--simple by contrast to those in Washington--Beckley Hills Baptist Church paid its last respects to policeman J. D. Tippit. The 39-year-old officer was killed Friday as he attempted to question Lee H. Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

An overflow crowd of 2,000 heard Tippit's pastor, C. D. Tipps, speak on the assurance of the resurrection. The flower-bedecked church was filled an hour before the service. Closed circuit television sets were provided in Sunday school rooms and outside on the church lawn.

"Today we are mourning the passing of a devoted public servant," Tipps said. "He was doing his duty when he was taken by the lethal bullet of a poor confused, misguided, ungodly assassin--as was our President."

Tippit had been a member of Beckley Hills Baptist Church for about a year and a half. His pastor said that he was "fairly active," considering that Tippit usually held other employment in addition to serving on the police force. The Tippits lived about a mile from the church.

Tippit's wife and family are also members of the church. Pastor Tipps stated that the policeman's oldest son, Allen, was especially active in Sunday school and Royal Ambassadors.

Assisting pastor Tipps in the locally televised service was Jim Bowman, vice-moderator of the Dallas Baptist Association and pastor of the Ferguson Road Baptist Church. Music was by the church choir, directed by Harlen Center.

Baptist pastors in Dallas and Fort Worth reported that Sunday's attendance was unusually large and a spirit of deep remorse was prevalent. Most of these churches were open Monday for prayer, with several holding special memorial services.

A number of Baptist churches surrounding Dallas joined in community-wide memorial services Monday prior to the funeral service in Washington.

The Sunday morning worship service at Park Cities, attended by an overflow crowd of about 2,500 people, ended with a special prayer session. Deacons spotted throughout the congregation led simultaneous prayers for the bereaved families and our nation and world in the time of crisis.

A member said men and women alike were weeping when the service closed with the audience singing "My Country Tis of Thee."

Dr. James Harris told the largest crowd in the history of Fort Worth's University Baptist Church, "We must reverse a growing emotional disrespect for public office and office holders." He also inquired, "He (Oswald) grew in our neighborhood. I wonder if anyone in this town was ever friendly with this boy?"

Southwestern Seminary
To Get New Building

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--The Board of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has approved plans for the seminary's new million-dollar activities building.

The 35-member board at its semi-annual meeting here also adopted a record \$1.7 million operating budget for the 1964-65 school year, heard reports and resolutions and elected new officers. The new officers are Chairman J. H. Steger, Fort Worth physician, Vice-Chairman W. M. Shamburger, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Tyler, Tex.; and Secretary Wayne Evans, business manager for the seminary.

Bids will be opened on the student activities building on Dec. 18, and groundbreaking ceremonies will be conducted before Christmas. This will be the last major building to be constructed on the main seminary campus.

A resolution was adopted commending the late Wm. Fleming for his "financial and service contributions" to Southern Baptists and Southwestern Seminary in particular. Fleming, a Fort Worth oilman, served as vice-chairman of the board from 1954 to 1958 and as president from 1958 until his death in May of 1963.

The operating budget will be the largest in the history of the seminary and represents an increase of \$121,000 over this year's budget.

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Former Texas Pastor,
Evangelist Dies at 90

(11-27-63)

DALLAS (BP)--George Wilson McCall, former staff evangelist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, died here Nov. 20 at the age of 90.

McCall, who had served as pastor, denominational worker and evangelist since 1893, had been a resident of Buckner Baptist Trew Home for the aging for the past year.

He had served as pastor of Texas Baptist churches in Georgetown, Beaumont, Brownwood, Plano, Texarkana, El Paso, San Angelo, and Fort Worth; and at Shawnee, Okla.; and Knoxville, Tenn. He retired in 1944 from his position as staff evangelist for Texas Baptists and became an independent evangelist.

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"Southern Baptist Hour"
On NBC-TV Dec. 14, 21

(11-27-63)

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--Two special half-hour television programs representing the Southern Baptist Convention will be presented by the National Broadcasting Company network, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21.

A conversation between Dr. Theodore F. Adams, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., and NBC commentator Ben Grauer, will outline the basic things that set Baptists apart from other Christians. It will be telecast Saturday, Dec. 14, 3:30 to 4 p.m. EST.

A second discussion program on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 4:30 to 5 p.m. EST, will feature Maj. Gen. Robert P. Taylor, chief of the U. S. Air Force Chaplains, talking with Grauer about the chaplain and his ministry in the armed forces.

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Southern Baptists Slate
Three Dramas on ABC

FORT WORTH, Tex., (BP)--In cooperation with Southern Baptists' Radio and Television Commission, the American Broadcasting Company's television department will produce three half-hour dramas next year for its sustaining series, "Directions '64."

"Each of the dramas will develop a different basic Christian theme by means of experimental content and presentation," said Wiley Hance, ABC manager of public affairs.

Hance, who was in Fort Worth recently to meet with Radio-TV Commission officials about the network programs, directs ABC's cultural programming on both radio and television.

The three programs will be aired by the network at 2:00 p.m. (EST) on three consecutive Sundays in 1964--April 26, May 3, and May 10.

Approximately 100 TV stations are expected to carry the productions, reaching an estimated 10-15 million viewers, according to Hance.

Other programs presented on the weekly "Directions" series are produced in cooperation with the Jewish Theological Seminary, the National Council of Churches, and the National Council of Catholic Men.

Title of the April 26 episode is "A Manual of Arms." It deals with a young man's realization of the true meaning of existence which results from a moment of terror.

The second drama, tentatively titled "I Came, I Saw, I Left," is a whimsical presentation of the implications inherent in always telling the truth.

Subject of the third program has not been determined.

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Baptist Radio Program
Features Coach's Testimony

(11-27-63)

FORT WORTH, Tex., (BP)--"I have always been impressed with the fact of what a tremendous person Jesus Christ, the man, must have been."

With these words, Paul Dietzel, head football coach of the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, opens his Christian testimony during an interview Sunday, December 1, on Southern Baptists' weekly radio program, "Mastercontrol."

Dietzel, serving his second year as grid mentor for Army, continues: "...the most important and the most thrilling experience of my life was when I finally decided that I couldn't run my life myself and I turned it over to Jesus Christ."

He also explains the method he uses in trying to get members of the Army football team to rise to their full potential. His approach is based mainly on telling his team the truth, whether good or bad.

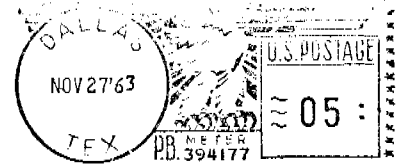
The 39-year-old former football star is the first civilian and non-graduate of the West Point academy to coach the Army team in its 73-year history.

A native of Mansfield, Ohio, Dietzel was graduated from Miami University (Ohio) in 1948 with honors, receiving a bachelor of science degree in education.

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103 BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS



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