

April 6, 1943

## 30,000 Expected in Giant Evangelistic Service in Crump Stadium During Convention at Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. --(B.P)-- A giant Sunday afternoon evangelistic service in Crump Stadium will be the climactic hour of the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention here May 19-23.

Dr. C. E. Matthews, superintendent of Evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, announced that a congregation of 30,000 people is expected for the service.

Evangelist for the service will be Dr. Robert G. Lee, pastor of the Bellvue Baptist Church of Memphis. A strong appeal for the conversion of unsaved persons will be made at the close of Dr. Lee's message.

Dr. Matthews expressed hope that the Convention sessions, climaxed with the evangelistic appeal, "will be the spark to set off a spiritual awakening among Baptist people throughout the land."

The evangelistic service will be preceded by a wide-spread visitation program throughout Shelby county, issuing invitations to unenlisted persons to attend the special meeting. Memphis Baptists will promote the visitation program, going out from all Memphis churches in organized groups for three successive Saturdays prior to May 23. The Convention program itself will recess Saturday afternoon, May 22, for purpose of allowing messengers to participate in the visitation program.

Plans for the special service in Crump Stadium were completed in a meeting of the convention evangelism committee here. Members are Rev. R. C. Cannon, pastor of Merton Avenue Baptist Church, here local general chairman; Dr. B. Locke Davis of Anniston, Ala., and Dr. Matthews of Dallas.

The Crump Stadium seats 28,000 persons, Dr. Matthews said, and additional seats will be placed to raise the capacity to 30,000 for the occasion. Still additional space will be provided for a special choir of 2,000 voices under direction of W. Plunkett Martin of New Orleans, convention song leader.

Dr. Matthews said that plans are for the congregation to be seated at 2 p.m., the choir at 2:15, and the worship service to begin at 2:30 p.m. The program from 3 to 4 p.m., including Dr. Lee's sermon, will be broadcast over WMC, Memphis, and probably 147 other stations on a Southern Baptist network arranged by the Convention's Radio Commission.

Tennessee Baptists  
Buy New Hospital.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(B.P)-- The Tennessee Baptist Convention has acquired property of the 100-bed Protestant Hospital here and announced plans for development of a \$3,000,000 Baptist medical center.

The Protestant Hospital, about 30 years of age and operated until now by a board of local church leaders of all denominations, is located on a 10-acre tract in the heart of Nashville's famed educational and hospital area.

Announcement of the purchase and plans for improvement was named jointly by Dr. C. W. Pope, executive secretary of Tennessee Baptists, and Dr. W. W. Wilkinson, Jr., president of the Nashville Academy of Medicine.

Erection of several buildings are included in Baptist plans. Two additional hospital units will increase bed capacity to 300. A doctors' office building, a nurses home, a drug store and a small hotel also will be erected.

This is the third hospital in Tennessee operated by Baptists. Others are at Memphis and Knoxville.

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Arkansas Baptists  
Observe Centennial.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(B.P.)-- Arkansas Baptists launched their Centennial observance Sunday, April 4, with sermons on denominational history preached by pastors of the state's 1035 Baptist churches.

Dr. E. C. Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Blytheville and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said that the "Centennial Sunday" observance was the first of several special days scheduled for the year marking the 100 anniversary of the convention's organization.

On September 21, the state's Baptists will make a pilgrimage to Tulip for a one-day celebration at the exact spot where the convention was organized exactly 100 years before. Climax of the year's celebration will be the Convention's annual meeting at Little Rock, November 16-18, where an elaborate program is being planned.

Centennial objectives include baptism of 25,000 new members, retirement of the \$229,000 balance of the convention's "honor debt," and completion of a \$1,000,000 campaign for Ouachita College.