

# BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS  
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, *Director*  
Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

December 1, 1963

John F. Kennedy, A Sincere  
And Practicing Christian

By Brooks Hays

Recognizing the interest of our Baptist people in my connection with President Kennedy's administration, I have written some of my personal impressions of the man who presided over it until the great tragedy (his assassination).

John F. Kennedy was a sincere and practicing Christian and none of his predecessors was more eager to be President of all the people, regardless of religious ties. Reared in a Catholic home and a Catholic community, he probably was not aware of the extent of religious rivalry that sometimes affects political life until his responsibilities encompassed the whole nation.

Surely it will be agreed that no Protestant president interpreted any more faithfully the American doctrine of separation of church and state, nor evidenced greater concern that national policy avoid offense to religious sensibilities or impair religious freedom. My judgments about this area of his thinking are based largely upon his actions and his public declarations, for we seldom discussed this subject.

I do recall that soon after I was transferred to the White House I told him of the prayers being offered by Baptists for him and he was obviously moved by this assurance, drawn largely from a letter from a preacher friend of mine whose attitude was typical of our Baptist family.

Occasionally President Kennedy gave our conversations a touch of wholesome humor. For example, seeing Billy Graham and me in a White House corridor one day, he said, after a cordial greeting to my distinguished visitor, "You know, Brooks, I'm going to South America a month ahead of Dr. Graham and I'll be his John the Baptist!"

And, in October, when he authorized my official leave to speak on thirteen Methodist college campuses, he spoke of the novelty of my trying to sell Baptist wares to the Methodists.

Yes, he understood and believed in religious freedom and as one who was loyal both to his own Church and to the American system, he doubtless grasped the import of the recent statement of Cardinal Koenig of Austria that Catholics enjoy a greater spiritual power in countries like the United States than in those where reliance is upon political props.

He would also have appreciated fully Pope John's statement to me "We are brothers in Christ," and while perhaps an unconscious sentiment, it was in reality the basis for our warm friendship. But he would give this idea a long projection into the life of the human family so that non-Christians seeing true Christian brotherhood at work would know they have nothing to fear from our Christian faith.

You would be interested to know that when I went to my office on (that) Friday evening, having flown from Florida Southern College upon hearing of his death, I found on top of my mail a note of thanks for "The Baptist Way of Life," in which I had inscribed a message for him. It was my last note from him.

My inscription to him paraphrased a statement used in Catholic literature. I referred to him as "belonging to the soul of the Church--Baptist, that is." And it was true, for his devotion to freedom and to the biblical idea of universal love linked him to us as well as to his Catholic people.

-30-

Brooks Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, served as special assistant to President Kennedy.

December 1, 1963

Janitor, After Pastor,  
Most Wanted Staffer

NASHVILLE (BP)--A pastor, a janitor and a secretary--in that order--are the first three staff to be employed by a typical church, according to a survey to which 638 Southern Baptist churches replied.

The survey covering churches with 400 or more members found that churches with 400-499 members had 3.4 staff members. At the other extreme, those with 3000 or more members had an average of 18.3 staff members. Since there is a greater number of small churches, the average of the entire group of 638 churches was 6.3 staff members.

The fourth staff person to be employed is someone to direct music, according to the research and statistics department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Department Secretary Martin B. Bradley of Nashville announced the results.

The order in which staff persons are employed led one observer to comment, humorously, "This survey proves cleanliness is next to godliness. A janitor is hired second most often to a preacher."

The survey also led to these conclusions by the researchers:

Churches in the middle-size range of membership are more prone to employ "combination" persons, for example, one man to be minister of both music and education. Larger churches would employ two persons and separate these responsibilities.

Part-time employees usually serve longer than full-time employees of the churches. Why? Because part-time employees will continue to live in the same community although full-time workers may accept calls and move to other churches.

A person with a single responsibility stays on the staff of a particular church longer than the person who has a combination of duties.

Organists, financial secretaries and ministers of finance stay the longest.

Men whose education did not take them through college, or if they finished college did not go on to a seminary, are largely serving churches with less than 400 members.

About half the churches with 1500 or more members have a minister of education. In fact, it's only as churches approach the 1500 mark in membership that they seem to employ a minister of education. Less than 2 per cent of churches of 400-499 members have one, but when churches reach 2000 members, three out of four will employ a minister of education.

Most churches with less than 1000 members get by with one secretary. The larger the church, the more secretaries it employs.

Only 1 in 10 pianists gets any pay from the church for this service, showing that many people serve voluntarily in various positions in churches (without pay).

If church has a recreation director, chances are he or she is in the 20-29 age bracket.

Only a little more than half the churches surveyed provide any kind of car expense for their pastors.

Over half of the pastors covered by the survey make \$5000 to \$6999 a year, although some get less than \$3000 and others more than \$10,000. The "average" associate pastor makes about \$1000 a year less than the "average" pastor, Bradley

said. Ministers of education, on the average, make between \$5000 and \$7000 a year (though don't jump to the conclusion their pay exceeds the pastors' salaries-- there are fewer ministers of education than pastors and they serve larger churches for which the pastors' salaries are correspondingly higher.)

A very few ministers of education make \$10,000 a year or more.

-30-

Atlantic City Trip  
Slide Set Available

(12-1-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has released a 35 MM, full color slide set titled, "Baptist Pilgrimage to Atlantic City."

The 15-slide and script production highlights historic, cultural and scenic sites of special interest to Baptists journeying to Atlantic City in May. Meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Jubilee Celebration will be held then.

The slides picture such things as Plymouth Rock, the United Nations building and many of the young Southern Baptist churches which have started in the Northeast.

L. O. Griffith of Atlanta, director of the division of education and promotion for the mission agency, said, "As Baptists attend the Convention in Atlantic City and celebrate 150 years of organized Baptist work in our land, we hope they will visit the places where much of this work was started.

"We want them to see the First Baptist Church in America, at Providence, R. I.; site of the first Baptist association at Philadelphia, Pa., and the Burlington Baptist Church, Burlington, Vt., the first church Southern Baptists have started in this state, which is the last state to have a Southern Baptist church."

(Southern Baptists now have churches in all 50 states.)

The 15 slides are available from the Home Mission Board, 161 Spring St., N. W., Atlanta, 30303, on a share-the-cost plan for \$3.

-30-

Lees Observe 50th  
Wedding Anniversary

(12-1-63)

MEMPHIS (BP)--R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church here, and Mrs. Lee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary quietly at their home here Nov. 26.

Only a few days before, Mrs. Lee returned home from a Memphis hospital where she underwent surgery.

Dr. Lee, thrice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Mrs. Lee, the former Beulah Gentry, were married in Greenville, S. C. He was pastor of three churches at the time.

Since Lee retired more than two years ago his preaching pace has picked up. He preached every day but 17 in 1962 and has been in 94 churches this year, he said. He observed his 77th birthday Nov. 11.

-30-