

December 4, 1963

Southern Baptists  
Reflect On Tragedy

By the Baptist Press

Southern Baptist response to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and to the elevation of Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson to that office continues.

In Fresno, the executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California adopted a two-part resolution. It sent a message to Mrs. Kennedy, expressing sympathy on her loss.

It sent a message of support to President Johnson but reminded him of the Baptist position on matters of church and state.

Many Baptist state weekly papers already were too far past deadline to respond to the tragedy in the next dated issue they published.

The Illinois Baptist, the Baptist Courier in South Carolina, the Maryland Baptist and the Biblical Recorder in North Carolina were among those who scrapped copy already in type to make room for comment.

The Illinois Baptist's first page was marked by the use of a three-column picture of Kennedy and comment, surrounded by heavy black rules. Editor L. H. Moore of Carbondale headlined an editorial on page 4, "Contrition at Thanksgiving."

Moore noted, "This should be a humbling experience, one that causes us to search ourselves, both our private and public lives, to confess and repent of our selfishness, our intemperance, our hatred." The front page of the Maryland Baptist also had Kennedy's portrait.

J. Marse Grant of Raleigh said in the Biblical Recorder editorial's headline, "'Sickness in Our Nation' Ought to Jolt Christians." He pointed out the forces of hate "have been too prevalent in states where Southern Baptists are the largest religious body," although "all of us must share the guilt of" the assassination.

The Baptist Courier called for prayers on behalf of President Johnson and sympathy for the Kennedy family.

The student newspaper at Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., gave the assassination story banner headline treatment.

T. A. Patterson of Dallas, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Texas, talked to employees at the Baptist Building there, many of whom had seen the Kennedy motorcade pass near their office building minutes before the shooting.

Patterson asked them to remember the wife of accused slayer Lee H. Oswald and "pray she may find Christ in a strange land."

He also observed the present feeling in America over the tragedy "could result in bringing a great many of our people to their knees...deepening the spiritual lives of our people" and perhaps evoking a national religious revival.

E. S. James of Dallas, editor of the Baptist Standard, received an invitation through Robert F. Kennedy, U. S. attorney general and the late President's brother, to attend the President's funeral in Washington. He attended.

Georgetown Gets \$650,000

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--An anonymous donor has designated \$650,000 for a new two-story student center at Georgetown College here. It is the largest single contribution to the Baptist college in its history. The new center will include a large reception hall, 400-seat cafeteria, music room, small chapel, bowling lanes, post office, trophy room and personnel offices.

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Snakes Alive!

(12-4-63)

DONALSONVILLE, Ga. (BP)--The Salem-Seminole Baptist Church near this south Georgia town plans a rattlesnake hunt.

Pastor Kenneth Long explains "this is a church project for a better community." Church members and others in the community have marked holes where snakes are most likely to be.

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