

December 19, 1963

Syracuse Region  
Transfers To Maryland

By the Baptist Press

Central Baptist Association in New York state, formerly related to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, began 1964 aligned with the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

This association includes five churches and five missions with a total membership of 849.

The churches are First Southern at Endicott, Roger W. Knapton, pastor; Emmanuel at Potsdam, Norman (Jack) Bell, pastor; Grace at Rome, J. T. Davis, pastor; First Southern at Syracuse, John Tollison, pastor, and Southport at Elmira, Paul R. Becker Sr., pastor.

Roy D. Gresham, Baltimore, executive secretary of the Maryland convention, announced the change in alignment. He said he had a letter from Knapton, Central Association moderator, stating arrangements for the transfer were complete.

Ray E. Roberts, Columbus, Ohio executive secretary, has been advised of the change and is in accord, Gresham said.

"There has been a developing feeling for some time that the New York work needed to grow as one unit," Knapton wrote Gresham. This was a reference to Metropolitan New York Association, which is already aligned with the Maryland convention.

Knapton said a closer relationship with the New York Association would enhance fellowship and would reduce the "sheer problem of distance."

Central Association churches are 350 to 450 miles from Baltimore, where Maryland offices are located; 500 to 600 miles from Columbus, site of Ohio headquarters and 250 to 350 miles from New York City.

There is, wrote Knapton, a feeling "New York problems are much the same, perhaps peculiar, and ought to be approached and worked out together." The move was not to be interpreted as "unconcern or failure" of Ohio convention leaders in their relationship with the Syracuse region work, he added.

There was no indication churches in Frontier Baptist Association, reaching from Buffalo and Niagara Falls as far east as Rochester, would change their affiliation with the Ohio convention.

However, it has been customary when a new state convention is formed for it to follow political boundary lines even though more than one already established state group sponsored or aided work in the new convention. At the present New York state work alone is not facing immediate independent convention status.

But a regional convention of Southern Baptist churches in nine Northeastern states, including New York, has been the object of fellowship meetings.

1.5 Million Attend  
Schools Of Missions

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist state directors of schools of missions heard that 1,484,304 had attended their schools in 1964.

The report was made here at the annual conference for state directors of schools of missions.

Lewis W. Martin of Atlanta, secretary of the department of missionary education for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, said in making the report, "This is a significant number when one realizes the number of schools is limited by available missionary personnel."

The directors immediately set a goal to reach two million in 1964 in the 3,600 churches which have planned schools of missions.

These schools are one-week, intensive efforts at learning about Southern Baptist missions. Those attending study mission books and hear missionaries from state, national and foreign mission agencies.

Martin reported 3,760 churches had conducted 8,500 classes and heard 22,000 missionary addresses this past year. There were 1,216 who made decisions in the schools to give their lives in special mission service.

The state directors elected W. L. Stagg Jr., of Alexandria, La., as president of their conference; Harold Cameron of Carbondale, Ill., vice-president, and F. J. Redford of Plainfield, Ind., secretary.

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Carson-Newman Adopts  
Open Admissions Policy

(12-19-63)

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (BP)--Carson-Newman College here is the first Tennessee Baptist Convention college to adopt an open admissions policy.

Trustees have voted to admit all qualified students without regard to race or color. They set no effective date for the policy. No Negroes have applications for admission now pending, a college spokesman said.

The Tennessee Convention has said integrating its colleges is a decision for the trustees of each of the schools rather than for the convention proper.

There are three senior colleges operated by the convention--Carson-Newman in east Tennessee, near Knoxville; Belmont College in Nashville, for middle Tennessee, and Union University in Jackson, for west Tennessee.

Carson-Newman is the 14th Southern Baptist-related college to adopt an open admissions policy. Nearby east Tennessee colleges operated by Presbyterian groups had already adopted such a policy and the University of Tennessee, at Knoxville, is also integrated.

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Post Pictures Immersion

(12-19-63)

The Saturday Evening Post, in its Christmas issue, carried an article, with text and pictures, about the variety of religious worship in the United States. A color picture on p. 26 shows a convert being baptized by immersion in the First Baptist Church, Longview, Tex. (BP)

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# BAPTIST FEATURES

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## Polish Dedication Has Touch Of Nostalgia

By Gainer E. Bryan Jr.  
For Baptist Press

BROOKLYN, N. Y.--It might have been a country church meeting in the Deep South from outward appearances.

The people had the hardy and homespun look of a rural congregation. The auditorium, with its knotty pine wainscoting, was like many a country meeting house in south Georgia.

Still the stolid, squared-off look about the features of a man here and there said something was different about this "Southern Baptist" occasion. There were the babuskas that some of the grandmothers wore. Finally, the 35-piece band up front, with their strange-looking instruments, shattered all illusions.

This was a gathering of the First Polish Baptist Church of Brooklyn, N. Y. It is the first Polish Baptist church ever to be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (and the Baptist Convention of Maryland).

Instead of pine trees outside, there were the anonymous rows of tenement dwellings that is upper Brooklyn, just opposite the United Nations across the East River. Here is concentrated a large Polish population.

Squeezed into a gap in the row houses is the narrow little church building with artificial brick siding. The normal congregation of 21 persons was swollen to a capacity crowd, for this was an epochal occasion in the life of the church.

For the first time in its 50-year history, it had a building! This was dedication day.

Other Slavic Baptist congregations in greater New York had turned out for the celebration. There were fraternal messengers from as far away as Chicago and Toronto, Ont.

E. L. Golonka of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said he recognized people of Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Rumanian and Bohemian backgrounds there. Golonka, himself a Polish-American, is field worker for the department of language groups ministries of the board. He was the main speaker for the dedication.

The high moments of the afternoon came during the playing of the band. All of the instruments were strung. All were manufactured behind the Iron Curtain. From the fast-strumming balalaikas to the deep-booming violas, they yielded music that was at once exotic and soul-stirring.

Mostly composed of young people, the band was at first introduced as Russian. "Aren't there some Poles in the band?" Golonka asked. One of the older members answered, "Pol na pol" (half and half).

The youthful musicians came from two or three immigrant Baptist churches in New Jersey. Their conductor was Leonid Jefemowicz, a former Russian DP (displaced person) forced to labor in Germany.

The band at first played a native air.

Then from this background there emerged the unmistakable strains of "The Old Rugged Cross," "He Keeps Me Singing," "Follow On" and "The Home Over There." Every Christian, regardless of national origin, was uplifted.

Paul S. James, Manhattan, area missionary for Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, brought greetings, as did Leobardo Estrada, director of language missions for the association.

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Baptist Press Feature

Folksy greetings from pastors of sister Slavic congregations, several musical numbers by the band, a mixed church choir and individual musicians and the final sermon stretched the dedication service to three hours. Then there were Polish cakes and coffee and international fellowship on the lower floor.

J. Kasa, pastor of the Polish church, formerly had to work in a drug store to support himself. Now that the church has affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, he has been appointed as full-time pastoral missionary of the Home Mission Board. This enables him to devote full-time to the work.

The board loaned \$7,500 for the purchase of the building. Sister Slavic churches contributed \$1,000 and the local congregation raised \$3,000 for repairs.

Location of First Polish Baptist Church is at 55-50 Sutton St. Its only sister Southern Baptist church in Brooklyn is the interracial First Baptist Church.

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(Picture being mailed to go with it. Outline is taped to picture.)

Cutlines (with Polish feature) December 19, 1963

Baptist Press

WITAMY SAYS WELCOME--In Polish, "witamy" says "welcome." This most untypical church bulletin board language calls attention to the home of the Polish Baptist church in Brooklyn, which dedicated the first building it has had in its 50 years as a church. Pastor J. Kasa is seen in the picture by outdoor sign. (BP) Photo