

January 11, 1964

'Dominique' Termed
Bigotry Set To Music

By Duke K. McCall
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Bigotry has been set to music in the popular song, "Dominique," sung by Soeur Sourire of Fichermont, Belgium.

This song in the album of singing nuns recalls with pride the inquisition by which the Dominican Order under the two bulls of Pope Gregory IX issued April 20, 1233, persecuted the Albigensians as heretics. With cynical awareness of the inability of Americans to translate the Belgian French of the lyrics of the song, "Dominique," the publishers have given in the album a translation into English which does not follow the French.

In the second stanza, the English translation says "Dominique was...fighting sin like anything." A correct translation of the French would read, "Dominique... was fighting the Albigensians."

The Albigensians are described by the Encyclopedia Britannica as "an anti-sacerdotal party in permanent opposition to the Roman Church, and raised a continued protest against the corruption of the clergy of their time." They designated themselves as the "Cathari" or Puritans.

Little is known of the precise beliefs of the Albigensians, except through the writings of their enemies. Even so, the purity of their lives limited the charges against them to "inappropriate theological speculations."

While I would challenge some of the theological speculations by various sectarian groups of the 12th and 13th Centuries who were labeled Albigensians by the Roman Church, I much prefer their character produced by their convictions to the character of their accusers.

Incidentally, the Roman Church used the term "Albigensians" to include the Waldensians, a group of Christians closely related to Baptists in doctrine and practice. (The Waldensians are claimed by some as forefathers of modern Baptist life.)

The ecumenical spirit of Vatican Council II is sharply contradicted by the pride evidenced in this modern popular song in the achievements of the iniquitous Inquisition. Surely, if an evangelical Christian group had referred to Roman Catholics as heretics and "straying liars", many news media would have been quick to apply the label "bigot."

In a somewhat irrelevant addition, I would point out that if political speculation focused on President Johnson choosing a Baptist candidate for Vice-President in order to secure the Baptist vote, there would probably be additional charges of bigotry at the ballot box.

The principle of "no religious tests for public office" should apply both positively and negatively to all religious groups.

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Fire Station Provides
Great Lakes History

By Walker L. Knight

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Nothing about the physical setting indicated anything historic was taking place.

The small, concrete block building had once housed a volunteer fire department on the expanding north side of suburban Indianapolis. The date was two days before 1963 closed its record, and this Monday night was caught in 8-below-zero temperature.

Warmth for the 150 who packed the area where fire trucks had once stood came from a noisy, overhead heater, but the defiant cold still crept in under the big, front doors.

The noise of the heater and the occasional wail of a tired baby would take turns harassing the speakers during the next two hours.

Mission leaders from Georgia, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, and nearby Baptist neighbors had come to help the 26 members of the Northside Baptist Chapel become the 1500th Southern Baptist church in the Great Lakes area.

The audience included many who had measured the spiritual need of the 70 million people living the eight states which border the Great Lakes.

Present were state Baptist executive secretaries Noel M. Taylor of Illinois, Fred D. Hubbs of Michigan and E. H. Moore of Indiana; Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board Executive Secretary Courts Redford, and Indiana convention president, James Abernathy of Evansville. Expected, but unable to attend at the last moment, was Executive Secretary Ray E. Roberts of Ohio.

These were men concerned that less than 50 per cent of the population of these states were members of churches. They were especially concerned with the big, commercial cities of the area. These Great Lakes states have 20 of the largest metropolises in the country.

The presence of these men, together with state mission directors of three states, area missionaries and most of the pastors of the Indianapolis area, heightened the historical sense of the occasion.

Taylor emphasized it when he said, "Fifteen years ago there were barely 600 Southern Baptist churches in the Great Lakes states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

"In fact, almost all of these were in one state (Illinois), and they were in the southern part of that state. Now Illinois alone has 883."

Actually the 1000th church for the area came in 1956. Five years later the 1200th was organized and now, nearly three years to the day, the 1500th was being constituted.

According to Moore, 187 churches make up the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. Hubbs reported 121 in the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Most of the others are in the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, which also includes parts of western New York and Pennsylvania. There are 18 churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota, affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Quite often during the services, speakers referred to the possibility of having 2,000 churches in the area soon. Indiana expects to double its churches by 1968, and Illinois will exceed 900 in 1964.

Redford, making his first speaking engagement since a heart attack last August, called the Great Lakes area one of the "greatest mission areas of the nation."

"When one sees the cities and their people, the complexity of commerce, the variations of nationalities and the spiritual need, he realizes this is a mission field unparalleled," he said.

"And if the states of the Great Lakes are to have Southern Baptist churches in the same ratio to the population as such states as Georgia or North Carolina, we must organize 12 times as many as we now have," he added.

Southern Baptist work in these states is a mission effort in every sense of the word, and this 1500th church is typical.

Pastor and Mrs. C. E. Lake, natives of Dallas and Benjamin, Tex., were foreign mission volunteers. His health denied them appointment to Africa. They have retained their sense of a mission call and have poured their lives into struggling missions in Texas, California and now Indiana.

Lake, 34, is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) in Abilene and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He brought his family to the Speedway capital of Indianapolis in February, 1963.

That month the chapel started with a small, interested group of Southern Baptists in the home of Lu Thomas, an engineer. It has continued to be a group of young middle class families. By March there were 30 in Sunday school in the fire station.

Sponsorship for the chapel came from two sources. Southwayside Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where the Lakes were members during seminary days, gave financial assistance. Memorial Baptist Church of Brownsburg, Ind., extended the arm of fellowship. Chapel members were officially members of the Memorial Church.

The months to follow were filled with surveys, Vacation Bible School, a school of missions and a revival. Attendance reached 63 in Sunday school and 43 in Training Union.

Members have become as missionary as the Lakes. They gave \$840 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, set aside 12 per cent of their \$9,000 budget to missions and look forward to the day when they can sponsor other chapels.

As early as April they began looking for the right property, and finally secured 12.36 acres in the center of a heavy residential area. A site loan from the SBC Home Mission Board provided the financing.

Come the thaw of spring, they will seek a loan for a building, again probably from the Home Mission Board, which also supplements Lake's salary.

Charles E. Smith, area missionary for a big part of central Indiana, including Indianapolis, said, "Our greatest need is dedicated, sacrificing leaders like the Lakes. The impact we can make is then without limit."

Smith sees the Northside Church as one additional step toward a more effective Southern Baptist witness among the nearly 700,000 residents of greater Indianapolis.

Louie Newton Resigns
But Is Reconsidering

ATLANTA (BP)--Louie D. Newton, pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta for almost 35 years, has submitted his resignation but may withdraw it because of appeals from the membership.

The resignation was addressed to the church through the deacons, who by unanimous vote rejected it. Ben Johnson, chairman of deacons said members of the church finance committee attended the meeting and rejection of the resignation was by 118 men.

The 71-year-old Newton said, "The only thing we're concerned about is doing the will of the Lord." He added "I figured it was time to take out a Model-T and put in a jet. I thought it might be a good thing for the church."

Newton is the second pastor in the history of the 2,837-member church which will observe its 50th birthday in July. His 35th anniversary will be observed in April. He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1947-48.

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J. H. Mullinnix Dies

(1-11-64)

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--J. H. Mullinnix, 73, died at his home here Dec. 31 of a heart attack. A Presbyterian layman, he was the father of Mrs. Duke K. McCall of Louisville, whose husband is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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New Year's Baby

(1-11-64)

CARSON CITY, Nev. (BP)--The first New Year baby to be born at Lake Tahoe Barton Memorial Hospital was the son of a Southern Baptist minister, Gordon Siler, pastor of the First Baptist Church in the South Shore community. He and Mrs. Siler named the boy Richard Erle.

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Missouri Burglars
Take \$50,000 In Checks

(1-11-64)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Burglars entered the business office at the Missouri Baptist Building here and stole checks totaling about \$50,000. They took also cash amounting to under \$200.

Police said the thieves entered the building at night through a rear basement window. They cut a hole in the wall to the business office, and entered from the corridor. The checks were in the safe opened by the thieves.

The burglars apparently took a look at nearly all offices in the building but disturbed only the business office, according to police and Missouri Baptist Convention officials.

The checks were prepared late the previous afternoon for a deposit.

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