

February 5, 1964

2 Baltimore Churches  
To Welcome Negroes

BALTIMORE (BP)--Two Baltimore-area Southern Baptist churches have voted that race will not be a factor in considering applicants for church membership, following the lead of several area churches which had already taken such a step.

They are the 1200-member Gregory Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore and the 300-member Valley Baptist Church at Lutherville.

A similar stand was taken by the First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Md., in the midst of racial difficulties in that city last October. The members voted to welcome "all persons" for attendance and to recognize as new Christians "all individuals coming forward on profession of faith."

These churches, like all others affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland, have no constitutional restrictions against accepting persons of other races. At the same time, like most of their sister churches, their memberships are all White.

The Baptist Convention of Maryland adopted a resolution at its annual session last November "strongly" urging member churches "to open their services of worship and instruction to men of all races, treating them without discrimination because of color in regard to fellowship and membership."

A Baptist congregation retains the right to decide on each application for church membership by majority vote, usually based on a profession of faith in Jesus Christ or on transfer of letter from another Baptist church.

Prior to the state convention request, one affiliated church, Edgewood Baptist of Edgewood, Md., had accepted a Negro member, Mrs. Alter Cook. She was received by vote of the congregation, without dissent, in the summer of 1962. She presented herself for membership by letter from a Pittsburgh, Pa., Negro Baptist church.

Mrs. Cook came to the city with her son, an Army captain assigned to the Edgewood Arsenal. She has been one of the church's "most faithful members," Pastor Wendall Gross reported. "She sings in the choir and attends all of the services of the church," he stated.

In addition, the 13 Southern Baptist churches in Metropolitan New York City, affiliated with the Maryland Convention, all are open to persons of all races. One of these, First Baptist of Brooklyn, N. Y., is predominantly Negro. This means that Southern Baptist denominational meetings in this area have been integrated for some time.

Gregory Memorial, Baltimore, revised its constitution early in January to specify racially open membership. It is now spelled out in the church constitution that persons will be received for membership, "regardless of race, ancestry or national origin," Pastor G. W. Bullard said.

Bullard said Negroes have visited the church and have been seated without discrimination.

In an action which Bullard said was separate and unrelated, the church voted to delay reception of new members until they have been visited by a church membership committee. The usual policy in Southern Baptist churches is to vote on candidates for membership immediately.

The purpose of this policy, he stated, is to acquaint those applying for membership with the church constitution and to help them assume their responsibilities as church members.

Valley Baptist Church, Lutherville, voted last October to interpret the constitution as offering membership to all persons "without regard to race or color." There were two dissenting votes. Richard O. Satchell is pastor.

The deacons of University Baptist Church, Baltimore, and Calvary Baptist Church, Towson, Md., have voted that church membership should be without regard to race. However, the full congregation has not felt that any action was needed at either church, and neither church has had a Negro applicant for membership.

Most Baptist Convention of Maryland churches occasionally have Negro visitors. There have been no reports of any persons being denied the privilege of worship.

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Religious Educators  
Study Church's Nature

(2-5-64)

By the Baptist Press

Purpose of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association's 1964 meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., is "to consider the nature of the church: its contributions to my spiritual life, my family life and my local church life."

The meeting scheduled May 18-19, just prior to opening of the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention, will be held in the Surf Room of the Ambassador Hotel.

This purpose is tied in with the emphasis throughout the Southern Baptist Convention starting in 1965 and going through 1969--"A Church Fulfilling Its Mission." The SBC emphasis will cover the church's mission through worship, proclamation and witness, education, ministry, and evangelism and world missions.

The theme of the meeting is, "When Tomorrow Becomes Today."

Ministers of education in local churches, state denominational workers in the field of religious education, and SBC agency staff members in the same field belong to the association.

C. Winfield Rich of Memphis is president.

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(Editors: Detailed program mailed separately.)

Missouri Holds First  
Retardation Clinic

(2-5-64)

ROACH, Mo. (BP)--The first statewide clinic on mental retardation within the Southern Baptist Convention was held at Windermere Baptist Assembly near here.

Sixty-three persons took part in the clinic, offered by the office of special ministries of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Roy L. Cissna, Jefferson City, is director of that office.

Topics included facts and fancies in mental retardation, case studies, available services, public awareness, community involvement and behavior patterns.

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Baptist Hospital Site  
Of Kidney Transplant

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The first kidney transplant attempted in Oklahoma City took place at Baptist Memorial Hospital here.

The transplant was between a father, 42, and his son, 14. Doctors said it would take a few days to determine the success of the operation.

The boy could not have lived without the operation, it was reported. He was suffering with a congenital kidney disorder.

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Missions Committees  
Key To 30,000 Success

(2-5-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--The use of the missions committees of churches and associations in 1964 will determine the success of the final year of Southern Baptists' 30,000 Movement.

This statement was made here by two leaders in the movement, which is an effort by the Convention to start 10,000 churches and 20,000 missions in the years 1956-64.

The leaders were C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., and M. Wendell Belew of Atlanta. Warren is director of the 30,000 Movement and is employed by the SBC Home Mission and Sunday School Boards.

Belew is secretary of the department of associational administration services and church extension for the Home Mission Board.

"Some 9,000 missions and churches must be started this year, if we are to reach our goal," Warren said. "This is an impossible task unless churches and associations use their mission committees in discovering areas of need and enlisting workers to start such mission."

Warren and Belew said the primary duties of the committees are discovery of needs, distribution of information, enlistment of workers, and correlation of mission activities.

They also asked for a church and associational emphasis on history. A study of how Baptist churches have been started and the sacrifice and efforts of outstanding ministers will reveal the patterns of Baptist mission advance, they stated.

"This study of history also will provide a fitting climax both to the 30,000 Movement and the Baptist Jubilee Advance," Belew added.

The Baptist Jubilee Advance, a five-year emphasis of the Baptists of North America, ends this year with a celebration in Atlantic City May 22-24 in honor of 150 years of organized Baptist work in North America. The 30,000 Movement continues throughout the year.

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Missouri Institution  
Adding Senior Work

(2-5-64)

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--Southwest Baptist College here has announced plans to expand to a four-year institution. The plan was approved by the college's board of trustees.

Warren Williams, board chairman, said the college will offer junior year work beginning in the fall of 1965 and senior year courses in the fall of 1966. The board also announced it had authorized the administration to proceed as rapidly as possible to obtain accreditation for the senior college program through North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Southwest was operated for many years as an academy and added the college department in 1920. It now has an enrolment of 450 students.

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Hospital Chaplains  
Help Conquer Crises

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Southern Baptist hospital chaplains discussed here how to help unwed mothers, alcoholics, teenagers and elderly persons conquer the crises in their lives.

They also considered their relationships as chaplains to local pastors where their hospitals are located.

The Southern Baptist Hospital Chaplains Association, as their organization is named, chose Harry McCartney of Jacksonville, Fla., as president-elect.

McCartney, chaplain of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, will preside over the 1966 sessions of the association. Fred L. Bell, chaplain of Midstate Baptist Hospital, Nashville, ascended to the presidency and will preside at the 1965 meeting in Chicago next January.

Other officers included Myron C. Madden of New Orleans as vice-president and program chairman for the 1965 meeting, and John B. Cheshire of Pensacola, Fla., as secretary-treasurer.

Madden is director of the department of pastoral care at Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans. Cheshire is chaplain of the Baptist hospital in Pensacola.

The Southern Baptist Hospital Chaplains Association is one of a number of groups which meets in connection with the annual American Protestant Hospital Association session.

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Lottie Moon Funds  
Predominate In January

(2-5-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nearly \$2-1/2 million in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds for foreign missions was included in the money received for Southern Baptist Convention agencies in January, the SBC treasurer reported here.

Porter Routh of Nashville said January receipts from state Baptist conventions totaled \$4,354,864. Of this, \$1,828,157 was through the Cooperative Program, the undesignated means of giving to support most SBC agencies.

The rest, \$2,526,706, was in designations. The fact \$2,495,462 in designated funds was disbursed to the SBC Foreign Mission Board is an indication nearly all the designated funds came from the Lottie Moon Offering.

The treasurer's office said it was "encouraged" by the figures showing Cooperative Program receipts for January, 1964 were up 12.29 per cent over January, 1963 receipts of \$1,628,000.

However, January, 1963 was described as a "low January" which saw less come in than during January, 1962 through the Cooperative Program.

The treasurer's office said it was too early in the year to attach any financial trend to the percentage gain.

Designations were up only .22 per cent, or \$5631, over January, 1963.

Figures are for the SBC only, not for state Baptist groups and not for total collections in nearly 33,000 cooperating churches across the nation.

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7 Southern Baptists  
Make Hospital News

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Southern Baptist hospital men who made the news at the 1964 American Protestant Hospital Association meeting here included four accredited as chaplains and three elected delegates.

All Southern Baptists personally but not all serving Southern Baptist hospitals, the four accredited as professional hospital chaplains are G. Jack Boston, Wilkes General Hospital, North Wilkesboro, N. C.; Wayne J. Durham Jr., Central Louisiana State Hospital, Pineville; William G. Justice, East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville, and William C. Mays, Midstate Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

To be accredited, the men spent at least three years in a "successful pastoral experience and 24 weeks in clinical pastoral education in the hospital setting."

The American Protestant Hospital Association elected three administrators of Southern Baptist hospitals to serve on the association's house of delegates with terms ending in 1967.

These three men are Edwin B. Peel of Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta; H. L. Dobbs, Kentucky Baptist Hospital, Louisville, and Julian H. Pace, Hillcrest Memorial Hospital, Waco, Tex.

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13 New Mexicans Hit  
By Carbon Monoxide

(2-5-64)

RUIDOSO, N. M. (BP)--Thirteen employees of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico became ill from carbon monoxide poisoning while eating breakfast at a restaurant here.

Four were hospitalized overnight before returning to the convention's headquarters in Albuquerque, but several staff members were not able to return to work immediately.

The department heads and their associates and some other staffers were having their annual staff planning meeting here. It was led by Harry P. Stagg, convention executive secretary, who was one of those who fell ill but was not taken to a hospital.

The carbon monoxide fumes came from a faulty furnace ventilating system in the restaurant, according to reports from the convention office.

Those hospitalized overnight, all from Albuquerque, were:

Milburn R. Moore, associate in Training Union and church music work;

W. S. (Bill) Shearin, associate Sunday school secretary;

Truett Sheriff, student secretary, and

Mrs. Eunice Hoyland, bookkeeper and office manager.

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51 Hospitals Related  
Now To Denomination

(2-5-64)

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Four new institutions were received here as members of the Baptist Hospital Association. The association covers hospitals related to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The four:

Montgomery Baptist Hospital, operated by the association of churches in the Alabama capital. Taylor Morrow is administrator.

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Baptist Hospital of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Baptist Hospital of Phoenix, both agencies of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. Earl Eddins is acting administrator of the Scottsdale hospital and Blaine Lair administers the Phoenix hospital.

High Plains Baptist Hospital, Amarillo, Tex., still in the planning stage, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It is expected to be in operation in a few years. Emmett R. Johnson will be administrator.

This brings to 51 the number of hospitals belonging to Baptist Hospital Association, according to T. Sloane Guy Jr., of New Orleans. Guy is executive secretary of the SBC agency called Southern Baptist Hospitals and as such works with the association as well.

The association voted to offer its third institute for trustees of its member hospitals. These trustee institutes, to which all trustees of member hospitals may come, are held every second year.

The dates for the 1964 institute are July 16-17. Houston will be the site. The institute will be known as the John G. Dudley Memorial Institute in honor of the late executive of Memorial Baptist Hospital in Houston.

Trustees will have an opportunity to see first hand the hospital satellite, or branch hospital, program pioneered among Baptists by the Houston hospital.

Raymond C. Wilson of New Orleans assumed the office of president of the association, and will serve two years. Wilson is administrator of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans.