

March 10, 1964

**Opera Star In Baptist
Celebration Oratorio**

ATLANTIC CITY (BP)--Metropolitan Opera star Irene Jordan, members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and a chorus of 160 will be featured in the presentation of a new oratorio at the Third Baptist Jubilee Celebration here May 22-24.

Based on Psalm 8 the oratorio, "What is Man?"; was written by Samuel Miller of Harvard University and Ron Nelson of Brown University especially for the 150th anniversary event to be held here.

Thor Johnson of Northwestern University will conduct the orchestra and the Singing City Chorus of Philadelphia will be directed by Elaine Brown in the performance Saturday evening, May 23 in Atlantic City's Convention Hall.

The Baptist celebration is sponsored by seven Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada and marks a century and a half of progress since the founding in 1814 in nearby Philadelphia of the first national Baptist organization in America, The Triennial Convention.

The Joint (interconvention) Committee on Baptist Jubilee Advance met here to complete plans for the Celebration.

The Atlantic City Housing Bureau reported to the committee that by March 3rd 13,692 Baptists had reserved 7,404 hotel and motel rooms for the meeting.

Southern Baptist Convention reservations totaled 10,919 at that time and American Baptist Convention reservations totaled 2,773.

These two conventions will meet in annual sessions in separate parts of Convention Hall earlier the same week.

An invitation extended to President Lyndon B. Johnson to speak to the May meeting was declined because of a conflicting engagement, it was announced to the committee.

The former Prime Minister of Canada, John G. Diefenbaker, a Baptist, and Evangelist Billy Graham previously accepted invitations to speak.

Registration cost for the Baptist Jubilee Celebration will be \$4 for each single registration and for the first adult registration in a family. These will receive copies of the book "Baptist Advance" to be released at the Celebration.

Additional registrations in a family will be \$1 each for persons over 18. Children will be admitted free.

The committee announced that progress is being made on the establishment of a North American Baptist Fellowship in affiliation with the Baptist World Alliance.

The approval of five Baptist bodies on the North American continent is necessary for its establishment. The Southern and American Conventions both have recommendations regarding the "Fellowship" on their agendas at their Atlantic City meetings.

The leaders of the North American Fellowship would meet yearly with large rallies meeting "occasionally." The congresses of the Baptist World Alliance are held every five years.

The Committee also approved the use of the Baptist exhibit at the New York World's Fair being made available to the Baptist Federation of Canada for exhibition during the 1967 Fair in Montreal.

Howard Butt, Justice
Hill Address Laymen

By the Baptist Press

A Texas grocery chain official and a Washington state Supreme Court justice will make major addresses at the Baptist Men's Fellowship the afternoon of May 22 in Convention Hall at Atlantic City, N. J.

They are Howard E. Butt Jr., 36-year-old vice-president of H. E. Butt Grocery Co., of Corpus Christi, Tex., and Justice Matthew E. Hill of Olympia, Wash.

The laymen will speak to the fellowship theme, "The Witnessing Role of Men in Christianity."

About 5,000 men are expected to attend the fellowship in the grand ballroom of the Convention building, said George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Brotherhood Commission and American Baptist Men, division of the American Baptist Convention, are sponsoring the fellowship.

The inspirational session for Baptist men follows immediately the annual sessions of the American and Southern Baptist Conventions. It immediately precedes opening meetings of the Baptist Third Jubilee celebration.

Presiding will be John A. Dawson of Chicago, president of the men's department of the Baptist World Alliance. He will be assisted by Charles Smith of Springfield, Ill., president of American Baptist Men, and Roy Collum Jr., Philadelphia, Miss., chairman of the Brotherhood Commission.

A lay minister, Butt is a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist) at Waco, Tex. He has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth.

Butt is one of the founders and president of Christian Men, Inc., a layman's activity foundation. His grocery company operates 87 supermarkets, two bakeries, an ice cream plant and coffee roasting and soft drink beverage plants. The chain covers 37 Texas cities.

Judge Hill, who is 69, has been a justice in Washington state's Supreme Court since 1947. A former vice-president of the American Convention, he's now a member of the group's finance committee.

Born in Bozeman, Mont., he has lived in Washington since 1907. A one-time school teacher, he practiced law in Seattle for 26 years.

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(Pictures of both men mailed.)

Carl Bahner Named
Outstanding Chemist

(3-10-64)

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (BP)--Carl Tabb Bahner, teacher and researcher at Carson-Newman College (Baptist) here, has won the Florida Award for being selected the outstanding Southern chemist of 1963.

The award is made annually by the Florida section of the American Chemical Society.

A teacher at Carson-Newman since 1937, Bahner will be the principal speaker at the Florida society's meeting in Tallahassee May 8. Following his speech, he will be formally presented the award.

Internationally known for his work in cancer chemotherapy, Bahner is head of the chemistry department at Carson-Newman. His research program calls for the study of the biological effects of certain compounds and how these compounds produce anti-cancer action. Recently he received a grant of \$24,360 for continued research in the cancer field.

Bahner received his master's degree from the University of Chicago and his doctor of philosophy degree from Columbia University. He also is a graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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EDITORS: Because of the unexpectedly quick verdict in the Jack Ruby trial, Dallas Baptist Press is sending you a new lead on the story filed Friday, 3-6-64. If you have not already used the first lead and can use this second lead instead, please do so. Thanks.

Jim Newton, Dallas (BP)

Predominately Baptist
Jury Gives Ruby Death

DALLAS (BP)--The fate of Jack Ruby, found guilty of "murder with malice" of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was decided here by a jury which included five Southern Baptists.

Ruby was sentenced to death in the electric chair for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by the 12-member jury composed of five Baptists, two members of the Church of Christ, a Christian Scientist, an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, a Methodist, and an Assembly of God member.

The death sentence was signed by the Jury foreman, Max Causey, a Baptist described as "a fairly active member" of the First Baptist Church, Garland, Tex.

Almost immediately, Defense Attorney Melvin Belli made plans to appeal the decision, charging that the jurors had made up their minds before the case began. District Attorney Henry Wade, however, said the jury was objective and attentive.

The jury had earlier been described by Dallas newspapers as "a cross-section of the city of Dallas."

Dallas County, with 166,000 members enrolled in 240 Southern Baptist churches, has the largest Baptist population for one county in the nation. The big Baptist population here may explain partially the reason for five Baptists on the jury.

Jury Foreman Causey, an electronics analyst, was the first juror chosen. Causey said he did not see the televised slaying of Oswald because he was attending services at the First Baptist Church of Garland (a Dallas suburb) when it occurred.

(PICKUP ORIGINAL STORY with 8th graph, beginning "Allen W. McCoy..." Original story included single-spaced here for your information.)

Allen W. McCoy, the second juror chosen, is a Baptist who searched for an answer to the question of capital punishment in the Bible just before he was named to the jury panel.

McCoy's wife told newsmen following his selection that she saw him sitting up late at night with the Bible, looking for an answer to the disturbing question. Both are active members of the First Baptist Church, Irving, Tex., where they attend "as regular as clock-work," according to a church staff member.

All 12 of the jurors stated they had no religious or moral scruples about meting out the death penalty if the evidence warranted it.

Their statements came during a week when the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission was beginning a study of the moral and Biblical questions involved in capital punishment. The commission is studying the issue at the instruction of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Other Baptists selected for the jury panel included:

---Luther E. Dickerson, 27, vice president of a tile manufacturing company who said he is a member of Vickery Baptist Church, Dallas. Dickerson lives in Mesquite, a Dallas suburb.

---Mrs. Gwen English, 45, a bookkeeper for an oil company who said she attends Second Baptist Church here.

---Mrs. Louise Malone, 58, the last juror chosen, an accountant for another oil company, who told the court she was a Baptist but gave no church membership. A sister living here said she believed Mrs. Malone "used to be a member of Highland Baptist Church here" but was not sure.

A sixth juror, J. G. Holton of Grand Prairie, said he is a Church of Christ member, but attends Eighth Street Baptist Church in Grand Prairie (not Southern Baptist) with his wife.

Other Ruby-trial jurors and their religious affiliations include Mrs. Mildred McCollum, Assembly of God; Douglas Sowell, Church of Christ; Robert J. Fletcher, Christian Scientist; James E. Cunningham, Episcopalian; J. Wayman Rose, Presbyterian; and Mrs. Aileen B. Shields, Methodist.

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

March 10, 1964

Theo Sommerkamp, *assistant director*
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville 3, Tennessee

Dear Friend:

A reminder...

...that we have not received the news story based on your agency's report to the 1964 Convention in Atlantic City.

Our deadline was Feb. 28, which has passed. I know you are busy with many details, but so are we, with the Convention coming on.

Please try to have your summary in immediately. Since we did not hear from you requesting an extension of time, we assumed you would be able to make the requested deadline.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Theo Sommerkamp
Theo Sommerkamp

TS:lm

Cutlines

March 10, 1964

Baptist Press Photo

(with story)

TALK TO LAYMEN--Howard E. Butt Jr. of Corpus Christi, Tex., well-known Southern Baptist layman, and Justice Matthew Hill of the state Supreme Court of Washington are featured speakers May 22 for the Baptist Men's Fellowship in Atlantic City, N. J.
(BP) Photos