

July 31, 1964

896 Laymen Deliver
Message On West Coast

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--A band of 896 visiting laymen "revived" West Coast Baptists and took the Christian message into the homes of thousands of nonbelievers during an intense five-day witnessing campaign.

Jack Stanton, Dallas, director of the West Coast Laymen's Crusade, reported 6,109 decisions of all types.

Most of the decisions--4,347--were rededication of life by Baptist laymen. They felt a new compulsion to share the gospel more effectively with neighbors and fellow workers, Stanton explained.

However, 1,205 professed faith in Christ in their homes or during church services.

The 29,141 visits made by the laymen during the five-day project surprised crusade leaders.

The men came to the Pacific Coast with a desire to witness and that's the way they spent almost every available moment, Stanton said.

A surprising 161,481 attended worship services at the 600 churches in California, Oregon and Washington while the laymen preached and gave their Christian testimonies.

The high number of rededications reflected deep interest by West Coast Baptist laymen, and men outside the churches also were impressed by the visitors, Stanton said.

"Non-Baptist laymen found it difficult to understand why men would use their vacations and pay their travel expenses round-trip to the West Coast out of concern for them," Stanton said. Stanton is with the division of evangelism of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

The men worked in teams of two and sometimes singly under the direction of individual churches and followed no crusade-wide program.

However, several associations in the urban areas conducted testimony and report luncheons or breakfasts daily.

In the rural areas, laymen often took a religious census in the afternoon, spoke at the evening worship service and visited prospects afterward.

The laymen, who represented 26 states and the District of Columbia, went to the West Coast to help Baptists bolster their work there.

They found Southern Baptists in the great minority--one out of every 100--in contrast to some areas of the South where every third man is a Baptist.

Sponsoring the crusade were the Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board, agencies of the 10-million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, expressed hope the laymen got a larger view of missions from the experience and would convey it to fellow Christians at home.

In Portland, Ore., the president of the American Baptist Convention, J. Lester Harnish, led a prayer in his study for the West Coast Crusade. This happened at the close of a visit by two Southern Baptists.

"He expressed keen hopes for fruitful results from the crusade," said John H. Williams of Nashville, a layman who is financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee. Williams took part in the laymen's crusade in Portland.

He was accompanied in his visit to Harnish's study at First Baptist Church by Fred B. Moseley of Portland, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington (Southern Baptist). Harnish is pastor of First Church and was elected American Convention president at Atlantic City in May.

States supplying laymen included Texas, 202; Mississippi, 92; Oklahoma, 78; Kentucky, 64; Louisiana, 58; Tennessee, 57; Alabama, 53; Georgia and North Carolina, each 44; Arkansas, 41; South Carolina, 40; Missouri, 23; Virginia, 17; Colorado, 16; Florida and Arizona, each 14; Illinois, 11; Ohio, 9; New Mexico, 6; Kansas 3; Indiana, Maryland and Montana, each 2; and Nevada, Oregon, Utah and District of Columbia, each 1.

-30-

Seminary Teachers Say
State Protects Liberty

(7-31-64)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Four professors at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, in a study paper on "The Role of Government in Protecting People from Religious Pressures and Manipulations," held that government has "regarded religion primarily as an affair between the individual and the supreme being."

Because of this relationship the professors said government has been "extremely lenient in allowing every person the freedom to believe, to propagate his beliefs by persuasion, and to worship unmolested."

The study paper is one of eight such papers being prepared by seminar groups across the country for the 8th annual Religious Liberty Conference here Oct. 7-9. The study papers will deal with various aspects of the conference theme, "The Meaning of Free Exercise of Religion."

The conference is sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Participants will include Baptist ministers, educators, theologians and laymen.

The professors pointed out government "has also recognized its responsibility for protecting the common good."

"Thus the government has asserted its right to protect people from undue pressures and manipulations, even when these have been exerted in the name of religion," they said.

The paper dealt with questions of (1) the role of government in protecting the economic rights of minorities, (2) laws which limit the freedom of churches to evangelize and absorb all kinds of people into a religious fellowship and (3) whether community, social or economic pressures against a minority group can be eliminated by law or by court decree.

In a democratic government, citizens are "duty bound" to protect the rights and privileges of all "regardless of creed, color, or national origin," the group said. However, they stated history shows that all minority groups in this country have been discriminated against at some time.

As an example they said, "Know Nothing movements in the Nineteenth Century, the Ku Klux Klan, old and new, and White Citizen Councils that emerged with vigor after 1954, attest to the fact of the denial of basic rights by some of our citizens to those whom they do not like."

The paper pointed out that laws in some areas forbidding social fellowship between races have been used to restrict religious freedom. Churches have not held such meetings in order to avoid conflict with the existing law, it said.

"When this happens, it affects the criteria for church membership and thereby limits the freedom of the churches," the writers said.

The theologians challenged Baptists to "respond to these infringements upon liberty in the best tradition of their heritage, namely, by asserting that human dignity should make man an object of reverence to other men."

-more-

In community problems, the paper said, custom and tradition are sometimes identified with religion and morality. "It is then an easy step for some individuals or groups to defend the status quo with the claim that legislation or court decrees which would interfere with said customs or traditions are against divine law," it said.

Stating that "most prejudiced persons are also the most religious," the Baptist professors said education and information is not enough to rid a group of prejudice. They said "love can be expressed in society only as justice, the quality of justice being determined by the depth of love."

Members of the seminar group writing the study paper were Claude L. Howe Jr., assistant professor of church history; William A. Mueller, professor of church history; Robert Soileau, assistant professor of theology, and William Garmon, associate professor of social ethics, all of the New Orleans Seminary.

-30-

Adoption Center
Places 1000th Baby

(7-31-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center in New Orleans, La., has just placed its 1000th baby for adoption, according to Clovis A. Brantley of Atlanta. Brantley is director of mission centers for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The institution is the only home for unwed mothers operated by the Home Mission Board.

Sellers Home was started in 1933 and was directed by Brantley for many years. Mrs. Allegra LaPrairie has been director since 1948. That same year the adoption center received its first babies for placement.

The nursery grew rapidly and soon there was need for a new building. In 1955 a \$150,000 building was constructed from funds provided by the Annie Armstrong Offering.

In 1961 a building for the girls was completed, again from funds from the Annie Armstrong Offering. The facilities include living quarters for 35 mothers and staff members, administrative office space, a chapel and an office for a chaplain.

The babies are placed in approved Christian homes across the United States, in most cases by the time the child is three months of age, or as soon as the pediatrician and the psychiatrist say the child is ready for adoption.

In recent months the number of applicants for babies has decreased and the number of babies has increased, according to Brantley.

Sellers Home and Adoption Center is a state-approved, licensed agency and can place babies in any state where the department of welfare or children's service will cooperate in approving homes. Preference is given to Baptist applicants.

The home is located at 2010 Peniston St., New Orleans.

-30-

Golden Gate Student
To Serve In France

(7-31-64)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Douglas F. Simpson, a Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary student here, will become pastor of the First Baptist Church, Toul, France, an English-speaking congregation.

A native of Kentucky and graduate of Wayland College (Baptist), Plainview, Tex., Simpson plans to continue his studies at the European Baptist Seminary in Zurich while pastoring in France.

The Toul church is primarily a ministry to American military personnel in that area.

-30-

Baylor Lays Groundwork
For Religion Doctorate

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University here is beginning to lay the groundwork for a future doctoral program in religion.

The announcement was made in a Baylor news release reporting the arrival of Ray Summers, former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, as new chairman of the religion department at this Baptist university.

Summers said the religion department is beginning to work on revision and expansion of their program to lay the groundwork for a future doctoral program.

If and when Baylor establishes a doctoral degree in religion, it would become the first Baptist university to do so.

Six Southern Baptist theological seminaries offer the doctor of theology degree, but none of the 36 senior colleges and universities operated by state Baptist conventions now offers a doctorate in religion.

Summers later told the Baptist Press the proposed religion doctorate at Baylor would by no means set up a study program competitive to the ones offered by Baptist seminaries.

Baylor ultimately will offer the doctor of philosophy degree in religion as a liberal arts school, not the doctor of theology degree of the theological seminaries, Summers said.

The Baylor religion chairman added that no time schedule had been set up for offering the doctorate, and that it is an ultimate goal rather than an immediate goal.

"We are now trying to build up a library and faculty which will make it possible to offer the Ph.D. degree in religion some time in the future," Summers said.

Trustees of the Baptist school approved several years ago the idea of a doctorate in religion "whenever the department of religion is ready for it," Summers added.

"Baylor and some of the other Baptist schools have a responsibility to move into this area," he said. "We feel a sense of stewardship about offering the degree, and are extremely enthusiastic about the future possibilities."

Before coming to Baylor, Summers for five years was director of graduate studies at Southern Seminary. He is a graduate of Baylor and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he taught New Testament and directed the graduate program for 21 years.

-30-

Alabama Board
Proposes Budget

(7-31-64)

MONTGOMERY (BP)--A 1965 Cooperative Program budget goal of nearly \$4 million has been approved by the Alabama Baptist executive board and will be recommended to the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

The Cooperative Program goal, if approved by the convention in November, will provide \$1,380,400 for the Southern Baptist Convention, an increase of \$70,000 over 1964.

The remainder of the \$3,944,000 will furnish funds for Baptist work in Alabama.

The committee studying the program of Alabama Baptists made a progress report. It explained how it is gathering information during its study.

Other committees reported they are still seeking to fill two vacancies on the board staff--secretary of evangelism and Sunday school secretary.

-30-

Pastor Blocks Burglary
When Daughter Screams

FORT WORTH (BP)--A prominent Baptist pastor here, J. P. Allen, foiled a burglary attempt at his home by knocking the villain flat on his back in a head-on collision.

Allen's daughter, Joan, returned home early from a date and found a man hiding in her closet.

She screamed.

Allen, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, dashed into the room, and the thief bolted towards the same door Allen entered.

The resulting head-on collision knocked the fleeing burglar flat on his back, but he leaped up only to be knocked down again when he collided with French doors leading to a balcony.

The housebreaker then dived through the glass-paneled doors, and landed head-first on the balcony.

Again he got up, and stepped onto a ladder he used to gain entrance to the house. He slipped. This time he fell 15 feet to the ground, landing on his back.

He got up again, dashed across the yard, plunged into the Trinity River, and swam to the other side.

Police arrested him not far from the river bank. He was still clutching his loot--two one dollar bills.

Moral (at least in this case): Don't try to rob a Baptist preacher's house. It just isn't worth it.

BAPTIST PRESS®

460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Davis C. Woolley
Historical Commission
127 Ninth Ave., No.
Nashville, Tennessee

519

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE



News

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, 127 NINTH AVENUE NORTH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203
OFFICE OF DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONS, GOMER R. LESCH, DIRECTOR; MRS. AGNES G. FORD, PRESS REPRESENTATIVE
TELEPHONE: 254-1631 SBC TELETYPE CODE: AG TWX: 615-244-1301

O given in Nashville BP Wash

GLORIETA BAPTIST ASSEMBLY, GLORIETA, NEW MEXICO 87535, E. A. HERRON, MANAGER
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 505, GLORIETA 844-2602 TWX SERVICE THROUGH SBC TELETYPE CODE: AG
TWX: 505-994-2055

July 31, 1964

TEXAS CHURCH GIVEN NATIONAL MISSION AWARD

GLORIETA, N.M.(BP)--A Texas Gulf Coast church which has twice won similar state recognition was named the outstanding church in the Church Development Ministry of the Home Mission Board of the SBC.

The 230-member Ganado Baptist Church of Ganado, located in the rice farming area 90 miles west of Houston, was named winner of its membership category and then the national winner in the ministry.

Pastor Jerry W. Lemon, a native of Lorenzo, Tex., led the church in gaining both the state and national awards.

He received the plaque from Lewis Newman of Atlanta, secretary of the urban rural department of the mission agency, at ceremonies during Home Mission Week at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

Lemon, a former student missionary for the Home Mission Board, graduated from Baylor University at Waco and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth.

The Church Development Ministry also named three other churches as national winners in their membership categories. One of these, the Big Creek Baptist Church of Anna, Ill., has a blind pastor, Edgar J. Schulz.

Schulz, like Lemon, had led churches in winning state recognition, and the Big Creek Church won awards in 1963 and

1963. Schulz overcomes his sight handicap through family help in transportation and the use of a tape recorder and a Braille typewriter for study and correspondence.

The other two winners, recognized at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C., are to Otto Baptist Church of Otto, Tex., of which Bill Saul is pastor, and the Emory Baptist Church of Emory, Tex., of which Douglas Brewer is pastor.

The Otto Church was the national winner last year, and this is the first time a church has repeated in the mission agency's ministry.

Church participating in the Church Development ministry, which is jointly promoted by the state conventions and the mission agency, work toward a better church, a better community, and a better world.

Recognition is given on the basis of a book of progress, which is submitted for association and state recognition before the national judging.

In winning the national honor, the Ganado Church reported hundreds of projects in all of the three areas. The church serves a community of less than 2,000 population, along with five other churches of differing denominations, but its activities resulted in more than 97 articles in local newspapers.

The church sponsors a Latin American mission, serving workers in the rice farming and oil industry of the area.

As an example of its activity, the church increased its stewardship, giving 12 per cent more to the Cooperative Mission Program of the denomination, but its work in the ministry touched every area of church and community life.