

October 17, 1964

Alabama Secretary
Suffers Chest Pains

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--George E. Bagley, Montgomery, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State executive board, was hospitalized here for rest and observation.

Bagley was on the way to a speaking engagement in north Alabama when he returned to Birmingham for medical advice following severe chest pains. Doctors diagnosed his condition as pericarditis--an inflammation of the outer lining of the heart, with cause unknown.

According to medical reports, the heart muscles or blood vessels are not affected.

Bagley was expected to return to Montgomery within a month.

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Maryland Baptist
Employs Ballard

10-17-64

BALTIMORE (BP)--James E. Ballard Jr. of Florence, S.C., was elected associate editor of the Maryland Baptist by the Maryland Baptist state mission board.

He succeeds James C. Shelly Jr., who resigned to accept a Baptist Student Union position in Alabama.

Ballard, 23, has been a reporter and make-up man for the Florence Morning News for one year. He is a 1963 graduate of Furman University (Baptist), Greenville, S.C.

In the summers of 1962 and 1963, he served as a press representative for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board on the staff at Ridgecrest, N. C., assembly.

The Maryland Baptist is a weekly publication here.

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D. C. Board Approves
1965 Budget Increase

10-17-64

WASHINGTON (BP)--The executive board of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention approved a proposed budget of \$503,002 for 1965, an increase of \$46,982 over 1964.

In the proposed budget \$171,642 is set aside for all missions, which includes designated and undesignated gifts to the American Baptist Convention and to the Southern Baptist Convention. Undesignated gifts will be equally divided between the two. The D. C. Convention is dually aligned nationally with the American and Southern Conventions.

On the local scene, the budget provides \$25,140 for the convention's program of student work. The \$12,000 increase over the 1964 budget will, among other things, provide for an additional worker. Howard Rees is student director for the convention.

The proposed budget will be presented to the 1964 convention for adoption.

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4 New Churches Bring
Illinois To 900 Mark

ASHTON, Ill. (BP)--Southern Baptist advance in Illinois passed another milestone when the 900th Baptist church to affiliate with the Illinois Baptist State Association was constituted at Ashton, a village in the Sterling-Como area in northern Illinois.

Illinois Baptist officials pointed out their state is one of the top five in the Southern Baptist movement to organize 30,000 new churches and missions. The Illinois association has a goal of 1000 affiliated churches by 1966.

C. C. Warren, Charlotte, N.C., director of the denomination's 30,000 movement, challenged Ashton's 25 charter members to magnify, safeguard and adorn the church as good witnesses for Christ.

Ernest Standefer, pastor of the Como (Ill.) Baptist Church, which served as one sponsor of the new church, presided over the 17-member council assisting in the organization service.

A Sunday school and preaching service was started in January, 1964 in the Ashton Community Center. Within four weeks, 61 persons were attending. The group leased a local funeral home chapel for their meetings.

Dan Bragg of the Como church served as the mission's first pastor.

Churches in downstate Benton, Ill., and Mount Vernon, Ill., joined as co-sponsors of the Ashton mission. Darrell Highsmith, recent graduate of Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, accepted a call to Ashton as pastor.

A revival held in the mission just before it became a church resulted in eight people joining the membership.

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1965 Maryland Budget
Hiked 6.5 Per Cent

10-17-64

BALTIMORE (BP)--The state mission board has approved and recommended to the Baptist Convention of Maryland a 1965 Cooperative Program budget of \$657,000, which is \$82,000 above the 1964 budget.

Roy D. Gresham, Baltimore, state executive secretary-treasurer, told the board anticipated receipts for 1964 have been revised upward, from \$600,000 (7 per cent increase) to \$617,000 (10 per cent increase). The 1965 budget, in turn, is conservatively calculated on the basis of a 6.5 per cent gain over the 1964 anticipated receipts.

Continuation of the present 60-40 per cent division of receipts between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes was recommended. The state share of \$657,000 would be \$394,200, and the SBC portion would be \$262,800.

It was recommended all receipts above the fixed amount be divided, 33-1/3 per cent to SBC, 33-1/3 for capital needs and 33-1/3 per cent for the Maryland Baptist Junior College Fund. This is the same basis as provided by the current budget.

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Maryland And District
Study Overlap Area

By Nona Saturday
Baptist Press Staff Writer

Two Baptist conventions are making a special study for finding the most effective way of ministering to an area which they both serve.

The District of Columbia and Maryland Baptist Conventions have been studying the matter of Baptist witness in the rapidly growing Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties. The two counties are in Maryland but are a part of metropolitan Washington. Both conventions have been working in the area.

In recent meetings the executive board of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and the state mission board of the Baptist Convention of Maryland adopted the following resolution offered by a special Strategy Planning Committee:

"That the two conventions, D. C. and Maryland, join in securing the services of a person, or persons to work with this committee in a study of the most efficient and effective means of establishing our Baptist witness in the area served by these two conventions."

While the two conventions study the problem of mission strategy, a special committee of four, two from each convention, will coordinate and advise on establishing new mission work.

Serving on the committee from the D. C. convention are Alvin O. West, layman in First Baptist Church, Washington, and William L. Scurlock, pastor, Takoma Park Baptist Church.

Maryland representatives are Cecil C. Anderson, pastor, Viers Mill Baptist Church of Wheaton and Maryland convention president, and J. N. Evans, Baltimore, secretary of the Maryland Baptist department of missions.

Geographically Takoma Park is associated with Maryland but the Takoma Park Church is inside the district boundary. Wheaton is a Maryland community just across the D. C. line with churches in both conventions.

The main problem was created when the city of Washington overflowed its city line, and the neighboring counties in Maryland and Virginia became a part of metropolitan Washington. As this overflow continues and Washington spreads farther and farther out, the problem becomes more acute. It is felt keenly in the Maryland counties.

Gainer E. Bryan Jr., editor of the Maryland Baptist, pointed out that years ago the Baptist General Association of Virginia made it clear any new Baptist churches established in Virginia would be affiliated with the Virginia association. The Maryland convention did not adopt such a position.

"In recent years practically all of the new work established by the District of Columbia Convention has been in Maryland, some penetrating 20 miles or more northward into the state," Bryan said.

James O. Duncan, editor of the Capital Baptist in the D. C. convention, also pointed out that at the time the overflow from Washington first began, the Maryland convention was not in a position to cope with the influx of people, leaving it to the D. C. convention.

Recently Duncan editorially viewed several possible approaches to the problem:

1. Continuing the present policy, which he said would be detrimental to the work of both groups.
2. Establishing a permanent committee, representing both groups, to review and pass judgment on new work proposed by either convention in this area.
3. Setting a line around the city which both groups would consider as boundary for their work.
4. Merging the D. C. and Maryland conventions into one convention.

Merger was not discussed by the committees from the two conventions, but it is an open matter in the minds of some individuals.

The overlapping of the two conventions in the community presents special problems because of the nature of the two conventions involved. With one exception, churches of the Maryland convention are affiliated only with the Southern Baptist Convention. The District of Columbia is dually aligned with the Southern Convention and the American Baptist Convention.

If a downtown Washington church decides to move to the suburbs it finds it has also crossed a state line into the area of another Baptist convention. The problem then arises of which convention the church should be a part.

A new church faces a similar problem. It must decide whether to affiliate with the D. C. group because it is in the metropolitan Washington area, or with the Maryland group because it is in the state. In establishing new missions the question arises of whether one group is infringing upon the territory of the other in this particular area.

Special committees established within the two Baptist groups studied the matter carefully. A joint meeting of representatives from both conventions resulted in the resolution to seek outside counsel. (BP)

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

Cutlines

October 17, 1964

Baptist Press Photo

BROTHERHOOD STUDIES--New officers of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission have opened a study of the building program underway at the commission's office location in Memphis. Third floor of the building is being turned into offices and a conference room at a construction cost of almost \$60,000. At left in picture is agency's new chairman, Lowell Holder, Evansville, Ind. With him is Hugh Cantrell, Stephens, Ark., vice-chairman.

(BP) Photo

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Cutlines

October 20, 1964

Baptist Press Photo

REVIVAL MUSIC-- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Mefford, Southern Baptist missionaries, Barcelona, Spain, lead music during revival in city's Second Baptist Church.

(BP) Photo

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(this photo accompanies John Hurt's feature article from Barcelona)