

October 23, 1964

Puerto Rico Baptists  
Grow, Plan Association

AGUADILLA, P. R. (BP)--Southern Baptists in Puerto Rico have announced the formation of their fifth church and released plans for an associational organization.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta, Southern Baptist mission official, attended a preliminary meeting with church leaders here.

He said the decision to form an association means the congregations in Puerto Rico, which were associated with the Florida Baptist Convention, will now work through a Puerto Rican organization.

Corder is secretary of the language missions department of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. His department sponsors and directs the Puerto Rican work.

At the preliminary meeting, each congregation wishing to participate in an Association of Southern Baptists in Puerto Rico was asked to name two persons for a steering committee.

This committee will propose a constitution, bylaws and ways to relate the work to Southern Baptists on the mainland of the United States. Corder expects this procedure to take three to six months.

The new church, formed at Ceiba, was constituted as the Bethel Baptist Church. Its 31 members are mostly English-speaking personnel associated with the Roosevelt Roads Navy Base there.

Roger West, appointed by the mission agency this year for Puerto Rico, is pastor of the congregation.

The new church was a mission of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of San Juan. Metropolitan Pastor William H. Slaymaker served the congregation until West arrived in May.

Now meeting in a former police station, which also houses the pastor and his family, the church plans to erect a first unit on four acres near the main gate to the Navy base.

West, formerly pastor of a Spanish congregation in Sweetwater, Tex., has also started a ministry for the Spanish-speaking in this area.

Southern Baptists living in Puerto Rico, according to Corder, spontaneously started the first churches, then called on the convention to help them and other Christians here evangelize the island.

In 1961, representatives from the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards visited the island, then recommended the Home Mission Board sponsor the work, since Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States.

Following this, the Home Board commissioned Howard W. Bryant, pastor of the Borinquen Baptist Church in San Juan, to present a detailed study of the island. In 1963 the board voted to give limited assistance to churches there.

Earlier this year, Milton S. Leach Jr., then director of Spanish work for the Miami Baptist Association in Florida, was named general missionary for Puerto Rico.

During 1964, the mission agency spent \$33,000 for property and personnel, and has budgeted nearly \$60,000 for 1965.

Tulsa Church Gets  
Bequest Of \$250,000

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--The court having settled a contest of the will that lasted for 31 months, First Baptist Church of Tulsa can now claim more than \$250,000 from the estate of a former livery stable operator and wholesale fruit and vegetable dealer.

Probate of the estate of Tom Phillip Miller, who died in April, 1962, has been completed in County Court here and the assets distributed according to his will.

Final settlement had been delayed by a grandniece of Miller, who contested the fact the will did not fulfill a promise Miller reportedly had made to her.

Under a policy adopted by the local church, none of the \$250,000 is to be used for the current budget. Instead, it will go for urgent property needs outside the budget.

Pastor Warren C. Hultgren noted there are several items of the church plant needing major attention. These include reroofing an educational building and making other repairs to the site, installing an elevator and fire escape, renovating the kitchen and enlarging the library.

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Baylor Gets Rare  
Law Books Gift

10-23-64

WACO, Tex. (BP)--A volume of books regarded as "the rarest of printed law books" has been given to Baylor University Law School here.

The Code of Justinian, a volume printed in 1475 just 19 years after publication of the Gutenberg Bible, was presented to the Baptist school by former U. S. Sen. William A. Blakley of Dallas.

There are only three other known copies of the Code of Justinian--one in Britain, one in France and one in Germany.

Blakley also presented Baylor with several other rare books, including a four-volume set of the first edition of "Blackstone's Commentaries," published in 1776; a copy of the first edition of William Blackstone's "Essay on Collateral Consanguinity," his first published work; a first edition of "Kent's Commentaries", and a hand-illuminated copy of the Magna Carta printed in gold on sheepskin.

The books are Blakley's second recent gift to Baylor. Several months ago, the Blakely-Braniff Foundation of Dallas made an unrestricted grant of \$150,000 to the Baylor Law School.

Blakley, a Dallas banker, oilman and investor, is former chairman of the executive committee for the Braniff Airways board of directors, and was appointed to fill vacancies in the U. S. Senate caused by resignations.

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Baylor Breaks Ground  
On New Music Building

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University here has broken ground for a \$375,000 wing on Waco Hall for the Baylor school of music.

The groundbreaking was held as part of week-long homecoming activities at the Baptist school.

When completed, the two-story and basement wing is expected to relieve crowded conditions in the music school's Roxy Grove Hall.

Main speaker for the groundbreaking was Carr P. Collins of Dallas, an insurance executive and benefactor of Baptist institutions who contributed greatly in making the new wing possible, Baylor officials said.

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Baptist Editor Named  
To Rights Committee

10-23-64

WASHINGTON (BP)--Erwin L. McDonald, editor of the Arkansas Baptist News-magazine, is a new member of the Arkansas State Advisory Committee of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission.

Six commissioners, appointed by the President of the United States, select the State Advisory Committee members. There is no set length of service on the committees.

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Hawaii Drafts Budget,  
Studies Office Location

10-23-64

HONOLULU(BP)--The executive board of the Hawaii Baptist Convention here has drafted a 1965 budget of \$286,508, which combines with other operations of the convention in the amount of \$202,860 for a total of \$489,368.

The Cooperative Program budget of \$70,000 would be divided 25 and 75 per cent, the larger amount used in the work in Hawaii and the lesser for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The budget is subject to adoption by the convention in 1964 session in Honolulu.

The executive board, on recommendation of Executive Secretary-Treasurer Edmond Walker, voted to obtain a feasibility study on location of Hawaii convention offices and the Baptist Book Store.

On recommendation of the social service committee, the board voted to continue opposition to all efforts to obtain bus subsidy from tax funds for private and parochial schools in Hawaii. It was explained that strong efforts are being made to elect to public office candidates who favor the bus subsidy.

The executive board accepted the recommendation of the trustees of Hawaii Baptist Academy to retain the present school property and to continue operation of the school there. The board had previously voted to sell and relocate on a 26-acre plot of land which it owns outside of the population center of Honolulu.

Olivet Baptist Church and Hawaii Baptist Academy each invited the convention offices and the Baptist Book Store to consider locating in conjunction with their operations.

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102 Committees Found  
In Association Survey

NASHVILLE (BP)--There are more than 100 committees at work in district associations of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, according to a denominationwide survey.

Although all 102 committees are not found in every association, of course, eight of the committees are found in more than half the associations.

The department of research and statistics of the SBC Sunday School Board carried out the survey. Robert L. Dorrill, Nashville, project analyst, sampled 291 associations, or about one-fourth of the SBC's nearly 1200 district associations.

The committee most often found in the association is the nominating committee. Nine out of 10 associations have a nominating committee. Almost that many, 85.2 per cent, have a resolutions committee. And an executive committee or executive board exists in 81.8 per cent of the associations.

Other of the top eight committees--those most often found to exist--and the percentage of associations having them are:

Time, place and preacher committee, 80.4 per cent; general missions committee, 66.3 per cent; program committee, 58.1 per cent; budget committee, 57.4 per cent, and evangelism committee, 53.3 per cent.

The study was initiated by Albert McClellan, Nashville, program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee. McClellan said the study will help the Convention's Interagency Council and other groups find better ways of relating the nationwide programs of Southern Baptists to the district association.

The district association is the smallest unit of organization in the denomination, beyond the 33,500 individual churches. The association includes churches in a city, a county or, in some cases, several counties.

Over half the associations have between 10 and 29 churches in their fellowship. There are 27.1 per cent of the associations with 10 to 19 churches, and an equal percentage with 20 to 29 churches.

At the ends of the scale are 8.9 per cent of associations with less than 10 churches and 9.6 per cent with 50 or more churches.

Nearly one-third of the associations (30.8 per cent) have from 5000 to 9999 combined membership of the churches in the association. While 21.6 per cent of the associations have less than 3000 combined membership of churches, only 7.2 per cent have churches with a combined membership exceeding 20,000.

Only 1.4 per cent of the associations have had a 30,000 committee by that name, although the church extension work of the association was likely carried out through the general missions or some other already existing committee.

The SBC 30,000 movement climaxes this year. It has been a drive to establish 30,000 new churches and missions over an eight-year period.

A Cooperative Program committee operates in 18.2 per cent of the associations, the survey discovered, but this sort of work may fall to the executive board in some cases.

A Baptist state paper committee functions in 12.7 per cent.

Benevolent committees found to exist in some associations include child care or children's home, hospital, homes for the aging and juvenile rehabilitation.

Only 2.1 per cent of the associations have a long-range planning committee by that name, though again, work of that nature may be carried out by another committee, such as the executive committee.

Specialized committees, found in less than 1 per cent of the associations, include a tent committee, committee on pastorless churches, committee to work with non-reporting churches and committee on history of the moderator's gavel.

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