

January 1, 1965

**SBC Evangelists Help
New Zealand Crusade**

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board division of evangelism here has been asked to help enlist 100 Baptist evangelists and pastors from the United States to participate in a nationwide evangelistic campaign in New Zealand next September.

Evangelists from the Missouri Baptist Convention assisted in the Australian campaign. The New Zealand counterpart will include evangelists from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

A committee representing the New Zealand Baptist Union was sent to observe the Australian crusade, and their report prompted the New Zealand Baptist Assembly's vote to hold a similar crusade in 1965.

More than 100 churches in New Zealand have already agreed to participate, and a total of 125 churches may participate when final reports are received.

Eual F. Lawson, Dallas, associate director of the Home Mission Board division of evangelism, will be responsible for recruiting evangelists from the United States.

Lawson said churches will be asked to underwrite expenses of their pastors who participate.

Evangelist Roland Hart of Auckland, New Zealand, has been elected director of the campaign.

Lawson will spend at least two weeks in New Zealand in February working with New Zealand Baptists on details and plans for the campaign.

There are 1.5 million people in the two islands of New Zealand and more than 16,000 Baptists.

No Southern Baptist missionaries serve in New Zealand where British Baptists first began missionary work in 1851. The Baptist Union of New Zealand was formed in 1882, and is now self-supporting.

Lawson urged Southern Baptists to pray for the crusade.

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**Texas Baptist Colleges
Receive \$1-½ Million**

1-1-65

FORT WORTH (BP)--Two Texas Baptist universities have been given \$750,000 each by the Sid W. Richardson Foundation to help construct new science buildings.

A new science center to be built at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, will be named in honor of Richardson, who was once forced to drop out of the school because of financial difficulties. He died in 1959, 10 years after creating a foundation for educational and benevolent causes.

Hardin-Simmons President James H. Landes noted that the science building is the first item of a 10-year, multi-million dollar development program at the Baptist school.

The other recipient, Baylor University at Waco, will apply its \$750,000 on construction of a new \$1.5 million science building. Richardson attended Baylor from the fall of 1910 through the spring of 1911.

The science building at Baylor is the third phase of a four-step plan through which the university hopes to substantially complete adequate campus facilities by 1968.

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Plans are to begin the new science building in the fall of 1965, said Baylor President Abner V. McCall. It will house the departments of biology, geology, mathematics and psychology.

Richardson, who was wiped out financially at least three times, started anew after the 1929 depression with four \$10 bills borrowed from his sister. At the time of his death he had financial holdings in several businesses across Texas.

Without publicity, he financed the education of many young people and made substantial contributions to private schools and churches, said Perry R. Bass, Fort Worth, director of the Richardson Foundation.

Richardson's benevolences were first made public shortly before his death when it was announced he had given \$100,000 for a new auditorium at the First Baptist Church, Athens, Tex., where he and his mother were members.

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Men Take Spotlight
In Churches Jan. 24

1-1-65

MEMPHIS (BP)--Recognition of men for outstanding Christian service will occupy a prominent position in the order of services Jan. 24 in churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The occasion is Baptist Men's Day. On this day, congregations will review the work of the men and accord them recognition for their efforts.

Begun on a small scale in 1930 as Laymen's Day, it has mushroomed over the years until more than 9,000 churches now observe the special event each year.

Observance of Baptist Men's Day is encouraged by the SBC Brotherhood Commission here and state Brotherhood departments, which provide special materials for conducting this project.

Many churches will recognize the men by using them in various portions of the worship services and in the educational meetings which precede them.

Other churches will sponsor prayer breakfasts for the men before Sunday School, arrange for soul-winning visitation and provide special mission projects for men on Sunday afternoon.

Almost 200,000 laymen participated in Baptist Men's Day activities in 1964. About 75,000 men led in prayer or read scripture passages.

Another 39,000 sang in special musical arrangements or men's choral groups. Almost 18,000 gave personal testimonies at one of the day's worship services with 22,000 bringing messages at one of the worship services.

About 1,000 men and boys made professions of faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour, and another 2,500 presented themselves for church membership on Baptist Men's Day a year ago.

Emphasis for the special day in 1965 is on the improvement of worship.

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10 Burned Churches
Aided With \$27,500

1-1-65

JACKSON, Miss.(BP)--The Mississippi Committee of Concern announced here that \$41,047 has been collected to date and 10 recently burned or damaged churches in the state have been approved for assistance by the committee.

William P. Davis, chairman, said five new churches approved are Mount Charity Baptist, Carthage; Pleasant Ridge Baptist, Collinsville; Rosary Catholic Mission Hall, Hattiesburg; Saint Matthew Baptist, Flowood, and Saint John's Baptist, Canton. Five churches had previously been announced.

The 10 churches will receive \$27,500 of committee funds.

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Four churches have already been restored by their congregations, with assistance from the Committee of Concern or other groups, or in some cases claims from insurance, according to the chairman.

A kickoff campaign sponsored by the committee to raise \$50,000 among the Negroes of the state was held in Jackson. A total of \$276 was collected.

The Committee of Concern is an interfaith group of Mississippi Negro and white church leaders, both clergymen and laymen, organized to help churches in the state reconstruct their buildings.

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Churches Not Hurt By Oregon Floods

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Southern Baptist churches in Oregon apparently were unaffected by Christmas floods which left hundreds homeless and brought severe damage.

A check by the office of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington here could find no record of any church, or any pastor's home for that matter, being flooded.

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Resignation Reveals Southeastern Protest

1-1-65

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--R. C. Briggs, professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has resigned and cited a protest against his teaching procedure and "deterioration of faculty morale" as reasons.

Briggs resigned as of Jan. 2 without any immediate future employment. He told Baptist Press he hopes to remain in the teaching profession.

Simultaneously, the resignation of Denton R. Coker as professor of religious education was learned. Coker left effective Jan. 1 to take a deanship in a Georgia college.

In leaving after 11 years at Southeastern, Coker complained to the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer about the effect on academic scholarship and theological education at the seminary the protest by a segment of the faculty has had.

The News and Observer story also brought into the picture the names of two more professors. They are William C. Strickland, professor of New Testament, now abroad studying, and Harold H. Oliver, associate professor of New Testament interpretation.

Oliver has resigned effective Aug. 31 to accept a position in the divinity school at Boston University.

Briggs' resignation was first publicized in a one-sentence statement from James H. Blackmore, Wake Forest, seminary public relations director.

The statement said simply, "Dr. R. C. Briggs has resigned as professor of New Testament at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and his resignation has been accepted with regret by the executive committee of the board of trustees."

Seminary President Olin T. Binkley commented, "Inasmuch as the president is the official medium of communication between faculty and trustees, this statement is all that professional confidentiality permits me to say at this time."

Briggs, however, said the seminary had agreed to continue his salary and benefits for two years.

According to Briggs, the protest over his teaching method dated back four years. He told the Raleigh daily a segment of the faculty, numbering 10 or 12, protested officially to then President S. L. Stealey in 1960 "against the use which I have made of the historical-critical methodology in the area of New Testament interpretation."

Although Briggs would not tell Baptist Press the names of other professors against whom the protest was also lodged, he told the Raleigh paper they were Oliver and Strickland.

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"It has been a test of whether one has to square his beliefs with those of his colleagues," he was quoted further as saying. He said several professors used their classrooms as "sort of a podium to attack (my) teaching."

A second reason leading to his resignation, Briggs added, was "the deterioration of faculty morale and personal relationships within the faculty."

Briggs came to Southeastern Seminary in 1957 after 10 years at Union University (Baptist), Jackson, Tenn. However, 18 months of that time was spent at theological schools in Scotland and Switzerland.

At Brunswick (Ga.) College, Coker succeeded a former colleague on the Southeastern faculty, Pope A. Duncan. Duncan moved to another college.

The announcement of Briggs' resignation elicited a strongly worded statement from Coker, according to the News and Observer. It quoted Coker as saying,

"In securing the resignation of Dr. Briggs. . . by offering to pay his salary for two years, the president and board of trustees effectively closed the door on the level of academic and theological scholarship which once characterized this institution."

Coker said the trouble began when "six or eight seminary faculty members alleged that Dr. Briggs and two of his fellow teachers of New Testament were disciples of the German scholar, Rudolph Bultmann, and protested their use of his historical-critical method of New Testament study, a method approved by all reputable New Testament scholars today."

The News and Observer continued to quote Coker as saying, "Many of the theological allegations (were) motivated by the personal dissatisfaction of a small group of faculty members."

He termed the resignation of Briggs "a tragic development" which "has set the cause of excellence of theological education back for many years."

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California Churches Damaged By Flood

1-1-65

By the Baptist Press

Two Southern Baptist churches in California have sustained major damage from the Christmas holiday storm and resulting flood which hit northern California and Oregon. A third church may also have been destroyed.

The church building and parsonage of the First Baptist Church of Klamath, Calif., were virtually a total loss. Flood waters rose over the top of the education building and into the attics of other buildings leaving three to five feet of silt when the waters receded. Buildings, valued at \$52,000, were not insured against flood damage.

The First Baptist Church of Hopland received extensive water damage from the flood. Water rose five feet high in the church building and in an apartment used by the pastor on weekends. All furnishings and equipment were lost. The buildings, which had only recently been redecorated, appeared to be salvageable. Wayne Creel, a Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary student, is pastor.

The First Baptist Church of Hoopa may have been destroyed. The community was still isolated a week later and no communication had been received from there. It is thought by observers in the area that they almost certainly would have sustained major damage. Harley D. Shield is pastor.

The First Baptist Church of Rio Dell was not damaged although the town was isolated and many of the members of the church lost their homes. The First Baptist Church of Orick sustained minor wind and water damage.

Early reports indicated the town of Klamath was virtually destroyed. Two to six feet of silt covered the entire area and only seven buildings still stood in the city. L.G. Camp, pastor of the Klamath church, was able to save only a few things from his home. A piano, TV, radio and a typewriter were moved to high ground. Some clothing was saved in their car when the family was forced to flee.

Numerous churches reported many of their members would be out of work for several months because of the destruction and damage sustained in the area.

The towns are in a 150-mile stretch along or just inland from the Pacific Ocean in northern California. (BP)

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