

May 11, 1965

**Baptist Record Wins
Top Editorial Award**

OTTAWA, Canada (BP)--A Southern Baptist weekly newspaper won one of the five top awards given here this year by the Associated Church Press, an organization of Protestant church-related periodicals in the United States and Canada.

The award "for demonstration of editorial courage through a crusade launched by a single editorial" went to the Baptist Record, Jackson, publication of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Editor Joe T. Odle accepted the award personally.

The editorial, in print last August, was entitled "Smoke Over Mississippi." It pertained to rebuilding Negro churches which had been burned during racial tension in the state.

Out of it grew the present Committee of Concern, an interdenominational campaign to assist the churches by accepting and disbursing gifts to the rebuilding program.

The committee, at last report, had collected about \$92,000 and allocated \$78,000 of this to church construction. Thirteen churches have been rebuilt and eight of these have already been dedicated.

A Southern Baptist Convention official also was elected to a major office in the Associated Church Press. He is W. C. Fields of Nashville, public relations secretary, SBC Executive Committee.

Fields was elevated from second vice-president to first vice-president.

John J. Hurt Jr., Atlanta, though not present for the 1965 session, was appointed a member of the group's committee to draft resolutions for its 1966 meeting in St. Louis. Hurt edits the Christian Index, Georgia Baptist weekly.

Southern Baptist editors in addition to Odle and Fields present for the meeting here included Gomer R. Lesch, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Mrs. Raymond J. (Fern) Hurt, Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma City, and Theo Sommerkamp, Nashville, Baptist Press news service.

-30-

**Committee Quashes
Resignation Request**

5-11-65

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--In a three-hour meeting here, the executive committee of the board of directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association withdrew its motion requesting the resignation of Executive Secretary Noel M. Taylor of Carbondale.

Following the meeting, Chairman Archie E. Brown of Vandalia and Association President Maurice Swinford of Pinckneyville, in a joint statement, said the committee had withdrawn its motion and in effect quashed the records of its previous meeting at which the motion had been made.

Their joint statement was made to the Illinois Baptist, the association's weekly newspaper. They said "an agreement has been reached with the executive secretary." Neither the committee nor the executive secretary made any announcement for publication indicating the nature of the agreement.

The withdrawal action followed a meeting of the executive committee about two weeks earlier called by four of its members. In this meeting, a motion was made to ask the executive secretary to resign. After a lengthy discussion, the motion was tabled to be considered at the subsequent meeting of the committee.

-more-

RECEIVED
S. D. C. BOARD OF CHURCH COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

No charges were filed against the executive secretary, according to the chairman. But committee members expressed dissatisfaction with alleged failures of the executive secretary to maintain good relationships with subcommittees of the board, responsible with the executive secretary for selecting personnel.

The executive committee is composed of the chairman of each of the board's 11 committees and the president and vice-president of the state association, plus the chairman and secretary who are elected by the board.

Taylor has served Illinois Baptists as their executive secretary since 1946. He is a native of Illinois.

-30-

H. I. Hester Plans
To Retire July 31

5-11-65

By Don Sorensen

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A 40-year career as a Southern Baptist educator closes on July 31 when Dr. H. I. Hester retires as vice-president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Millard J. Berquist, seminary president, in announcing Hester's retirement at the end of the academic year, said:

"From its very inception in 1957, Dr. Hester has been closely identified with Midwestern Seminary. He was first president of the board of trustees, and served ably in this capacity until his election in 1961 as vice-president of the seminary.

"It is impossible for us adequately to measure the great contribution which Dr. Hester has made to Midwestern Seminary during these years of faithful and devoted service. Neither can we begin to express the deep appreciation all of us feel. We shall ever be indebted to him."

Asked for the secret of his career, Dr. Hester said it might be a love for hard work and a love for people. "I do not see how anyone could love his work--with all its problems--any more than I have loved mine."

Dr. and Mrs. Hester will live in Liberty, Mo., after retirement. Liberty is in the Kansas City metropolitan area. He plans to write two more books after retiring, and to lecture in Brazil.

His attachment to Liberty was gained during Dr. Hester's 35-year connection with William Jewell College (Baptist) there, where he served as head of the department of religion, interim president and vice-president. He went from Jewell to Midwestern.

He was professor at Furman University (Baptist), Greenville, S. C., for over two years before going to William Jewell. Hester is a native of Lyons, Ga., and a graduate of Wake Forest College (Baptist) in North Carolina and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Interested in Baptist history, Hester has served as recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Society for many years. Another post has been secretary-treasurer of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools.

A writer, Dr. Hester may be best known among Southern Baptists as coauthor of "Broadman Comments," a Sunday school teacher's source of lesson helps, for the last five years. Two of his books have also had a wide appeal.

"The Heart of Hebrew History" and "The Heart of the New Testament" have been adopted by more than 300 colleges and universities on four continents. They have been translated and published in Chinese, read into records for the blind, and printed in Braille.

At Midwestern, Hester has been in charge of public relations and has edited the seminary's monthly publication. He has been active in student enlistment and counseling.

-30-

Southern Seminary Gift
Helps Burned Churches

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--A \$766 contribution has been received here from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to help the Committee of Concern rebuild burned Negro churches in Mississippi.

W. P. Davis, Jackson, a staff member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and chairman of the committee, said this is the first donation to come from any of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries.

Keith Parker, Southern Seminary student who is chairman of the welfare and social action committee at the school, sent the \$766 with a note that both students and faculty gave the money.

The Committee of Concern, an interfaith group of Negro and white church leaders, both clergymen and laymen, has received about \$92,000 in gifts to help rebuild the churches. Of this \$78,000 has been used and 13 churches have been rebuilt thus far. Twenty-one of the 38 burned churches have been aided.

-30-

(See related story in this mailing datelined Ottawa)

Associational Leaders
Plan Meeting At Dallas

5-11-65

DALLAS (BP)--Associational superintendents of missions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention will meet for a luncheon in the dining room of First Baptist Church, Dallas at noon, June 3.

Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, will be the main speaker for the second annual meeting of the group.

Major items of business will be the election of officers and the adoption of a constitution, it was announced by D. E. Strahan, Ponca City, Okla. acting chairman in charge of program arrangements.

There were 150 associational missionaries in attendance when they met in Atlantic City last year.

Reservations for the 1965 meeting can be made through Strahan at 306 S. 6th St., Ponca City, Okla.

-30-

Charlotte Church Holds
2-Day Race Conference

5-11-65

By Sue Creighton

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (BP)--No punches were pulled as civil rights leaders, ministers, professors and laymen discussed the "number one problem of the South" during a conference on the race issue staged by Myers Park Baptist Church here.

Carlyle Marney, host pastor, said that by these conversations, which were frank and open, those from the American Baptist Convention could better understand the Southern problem.

By bringing American Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention and Negro Baptist people together, it apparently was an unprecedented event. The two-day theme was, "How It Is--1965, Church and Race."

Edwin H. Tuller, Valley Forge, Pa., general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, told those present that Baptist preachers from the North often look at their Southern brethren as too much muzzled by racially conservative congregations.

"If a preacher steps out of bounds, they boot him out," he said.

In spite of admitted racial trouble in the North, Tuller said he felt compelled to say that American Baptists were ahead of Southern Baptists in taking action to end discrimination.

-more-

He said most American Baptist churches were open to Negroes, whereas that was not so in the South.

Southerners want to do "for the Negro" not "with" him, he said.

Tuller said the difference in attitude and action on race was probably the biggest wedge separating the two conventions.

McLeod Bryan, from the department of religion at Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., threw open certain points of view not always mentioned.

"Those who pay the price are apt to feel superior to those who sit on the sidelines. Some will plan their own martyrdom if the TV cameras will cover it," he said.

"Some have a self-appointed Messianic complex. Dramatic actions are apt to be ranked higher than those who quietly work behind the scenes.

"This is the BS period. Before Selma. No one else qualifies to be in with the in," Bryan said.

He said one pat formula that had developed with the movement was that "anything a Negro does is bound to be right and anyone working with him is right. A white man can do no right.

"To whitewash the Negro in this movement and reverse the prejudice is an injustice and helps no one. You get stereotype images here of the Negro saint and the white demon."

Bryan also said there were some actual benefits from the movement.

"The dispossessed Negro has developed more maturity than his oppressor. His nonviolent method--his grasp of Christianity, outshines others. The Negro's idea of the gospel is good news, release, freedom, charity. The white idea is cold, abstract and verbalized. Could the Negro be the salvation of us all?", Bryan asked.

-30-

Annuity Board Launches Health Benefit Plan

5-11-65

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees may now enrol in the new Health Benefit Plan, according to the Convention's Annuity Board administrator.

Executive Secretary R. Alton Reed said salaried employees of churches or the denomination are being notified about the plan which will be underwritten by Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Texas.

Three major features are included in the hospitalization and surgical type plan. These features include major medical coverage, which is in addition to the regular hospital and surgical benefits, same cost to the applicant regardless of where he may serve, and continued protection after retirement at the same cost, Reed said.

The plan's benefits are broad in scope, also. For example, hospital benefits include up to 70 days per confinement period and pay for all hospital services except blood and plasma after a \$25 deduction.

Surgical benefits may pay as much as \$300 for surgery wherever performed.

Major medical takes over when the hospital and surgical benefits stop, Reed said. Major medical includes coverage of up to \$25 a day room maximum for 365 days per benefit period with a \$10,000 lifetime maximum per person covered. Major medical is on an 80 per cent co-insurance basis after a \$100 corridor has been made above the basic plan.

The health plan is open to any salaried employee and his family of a church or agency except hospitals affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Reed said.

There are no health requirements. Pre-existing conditions except maternity are covered immediately. A nine-month waiting period is required for maternity, he said.

-more-

May 11, 1965

5

Baptist Press

The plan is scheduled to go into effect Oct. 1 if 5,000 persons have enrolled. However the enrolment date will close Sept. 1, he said.

"We are very pleased to offer this plan because it meets the needs of so many of our pastors who cannot be a part of a group plan," Reed said. "The cost will be about 20 per cent less than the same benefits would cost on an individual basis," he added.

Cost of the plan will range from a low \$7 per month for one person to \$19.25 for an entire family where children are under 19 years of age.

The health plan is the newest phase in the Annuity Board's protection program.

-30-

OH YALE
MAY 11 1965
BAPTIST PRESS
2000

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

Faint, illegible text in the middle of the page, possibly a signature or a short paragraph.



460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

DR. DAVIS C WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMM
127 NINTH AVE N
NASHVILLE TENN 37203