

October 9, 1965

**Virginia To Discuss
Second Home For Aging**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Extension of its ministry to the aging will be a topic on the agenda for the annual session of the Baptist General Association of Virginia when it meets in November.

The general board has already approved here a plan to establish a second home for the aging in the Tidewater area of the state, with the prospect of buying a site in Newport News. Passage of the plan by the general association is required.

The proposed new home for the aging and one already existing in Gulpepper, Va., would be managed by a single board of trustees, with local committees assisting. Funds to develop the new home would come from reserves and other funds on hand or to be contributed by persons interested in extending the ministry to the aging.

In another action, the Virginia Baptist general board adopted a 1966 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$4,240,000. Of this, 37.5 per cent will go to support Southern Baptist Convention work on national and world scale. This is an increase to the SBC, which in 1965 has been receiving 37 per cent of Cooperative Program gifts.

Again, the budget is not final till passed by the general association. The 1966 proposal tops the \$4 million figure for the current year. \$500,000 of the budget for 1966 will be for capital needs of Baptist colleges in Virginia.

The general board turned down a suggestion to create a department of audio-visual aids to serve Baptist churches in the state. It also said "No" to employing full time a staff member here to consult with churches on establishing libraries.

Plans for further development of the association's second Royal Ambassador camp were okayed. The camp is located near Bedford, Va.

High schools in the state saying "Yes" to the offer will receive copies of *College and Career*, monthly publication of the SBC Education Commission to help counsel teen-agers on their vocation and on choosing a Baptist college to attend. The Virginia board will pay for the subscriptions sent to libraries of interested high schools.

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**Person-T -Person Best
Spanish Evangelism**

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**By Gainer E. Bryan Jr.
For Baptist Press**

MADRID--In a land where non-Catholic Christianity still must operate underground, Spanish Baptists are finding person-to-person evangelism the best New Testament method there is.

Every Christian witnessing to his family, neighbors and other acquaintances--this, plus preaching, was the method being used in the Spanish Baptist Evangelistic Crusade in October. The effort was the first nationwide evangelistic campaign ever held by Baptists.

Tall, distinguished Juan Luis Rodrigo, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, beamed as he described preparations for the crusade in his church. He is president of the Spanish Baptist Union.

He said what is happening in his church is happening in all of the 53 churches, plus missions, of the Union.

"We are now getting ready to make personal contacts with prospects," he said, holding up a thick stack of neatly typed cards. "We have over 40 people going out in pairs to see them, taking these cards and bringing back reports. We had a meeting of all these visitors last Thursday night. They filled up a small auditorium."

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Rodrigo, 43, with thick brown hair graying at the temples, was so enthusiastic about what he had to tell that he was almost laughing. He talked through an interpreter, Southern Baptist missionary Charles W. Whitten of Mississippi, in Rodrigo's tiny study in his seventh floor apartment.

"There's a special spirit in my church now I haven't seen in a long time," he said. "They're all bringing people to church." First Baptist Church, Madrid, with 430 members, is the largest Baptist church in the country.

Proselytism is forbidden to non-Catholics in this country where the Catholic Church is established by the state and more than 90 per cent of the people are nominal Catholics. "What we do we do not think of as proselytism," the Spanish Baptist leader said.

"We are not going to bother anybody's faith, but wherever we find people who do not have Christ in their hearts we believe it is our responsibility and our privilege to share Christ with them. There are thousands and thousands of these in Spain.

"Any real faith will give testimony of itself, and this is our witness."

As he talked, Senor Rodrigo displayed a variety of literature and gimmicks prepared for the campaign. He held up the campaign poster being displayed throughout Spain.

It features the purple shadow, placed diagonally, of a black cross on a field of color in three layers--yellow at the top, brown in the middle and black at bottom. Inscribed in Spanish are the words, "Christ says: I am the way."

The poster has been reproduced on letterheads and envelopes available at cost in every church, as well as on seals to stick on the outside of letters.

Senor Rodrigo also displayed a pink and black ball point pen with the words of the poster inscribed in gold, "Jesus dice: Yo soy el camino." He said, "I had 1,500 of these made and the members bought them all in one afternoon to give out to prospects." He said he gave one to a policeman who accepted it enthusiastically.

Of special interest was a printed folder entitled, "Our Evangelistic Possibilities." The folder opened up to a double-page form entitled "My circle of personal influence."

There were blanks to write in names and addresses under the following headings: "My relatives," "My friends," "My work companions," "My neighbors" and "My influence in other towns." Senor Rodrigo said many prospects are being gained from the use of this form.

One layman in First Baptist Church made up all these campaign materials. The materials include a special offering envelope for the campaign. A special offering, taken in all the Baptist churches of Spain the preceding Sunday, had yielded \$200 in his church, "and the envelopes are still coming in." He said seven "promoters" of the campaign are at work in his church.

There is a national organization for the crusade consisting of four general officers, eight "promoters," a coordinator for legal matters and one man for liaison with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Rallies or "conferences" will be held, but not in the form of mass meetings. Renting of public halls is forbidden to Baptists. The members of Baptist churches near each other will simply come together in one place.

"We cannot use radio, television and newspaper," Senor Rodrigo said. "None of these is open to us. One thing they can't do--they can't keep people from talking to each other. This is the thing we take advantage of. It is the best New Testament method there is."

Joe Mefford Prepares
First Spanish Hymnal

By Gainer E. Bryan Jr.
For Baptist Press

BARCELONA, Spain--Spanish Baptists will have their first hymnal containing both words and music in December.

That is the assurance of Joseph W. Mefford, Southern Baptist Missionary from Fort Collins, Colo. He expects to complete his five years of labor on this monumental project before Christmas.

Joe Mefford, who is secretary of church music for the Spanish Baptist mission, said here that schools of church music will be possible for the first time when the hymnal is ready. They have been impossible in the past because there was no textbook. The new hymnal will serve this purpose.

Spanish Baptists, who sing forth with the most spontaneous outburst of any people on earth, will rejoice to be able to follow the music in the new hymnal. In the past their tiny thick hymnbook has contained only words.

The ones who will be the most grateful, however, will be the pianists and organists. Through all of the years they have had to have at arms' reach several standard hymnals in which to locate the music for hymns that are sung.

On each page of the old hymnal there is given in code the names of various hymn books in which the music for that particular hymn can be found.

Mefford said it takes no less than 23 hymn books to locate the tunes for the selections that are listed in the present hymnal!

The task of compiling the first Spanish Baptist hymnal has been compounded, Mefford said, by the necessity of continuing all of the 450 selections in the present hymnal, in the same order. He is adding 50 to round the number off at 500. It was difficult to locate music for some hymns not sung in 15 years.

The Spanish Baptist mission assigned the hymnal task to Mefford five years ago. He had to carry on this work along with his duties as a field missionary.

In August of this year he yielded to repeated requests to become the mission's director of church music, still without being relieved of field responsibilities. He records a weekly musical and evangelistic program which is broadcast in Spanish over the international radio at Monte Carlo.

Mefford has had a committee to work with him, consisting of pastor Samuel Rodrigo and a layman, Pedro Pruig.

Tall, affable Joe Mefford has no special musical training. "I just picked it up through the years," he said. "Somewhere I read that in the economy of God nothing is ever lost--that certainly applies on the mission field."

A graduate of Ouachita University (Baptist), Arkadelphia, Ark., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he has been in Spain since 1953.