

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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November 3, 1965

Albuquerque Churches
Keep Up With Growth

ALBUQUERQUE (BP)--A thorough house-to-house religious survey here indicates churches in this fast-growing metropolitan area more than held their own during the past 15 years.

Albuquerque, one of the nation's fastest growing cities, now records a population of 238,300, nearly 150 per cent more than 15 years ago when the population was 96,000.

More than 1,500 church workers from 71 Protestant churches discovered church membership to be 69 per cent, or five per cent above the national average.

Donald F. Mabry of Atlanta, survey specialist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and codirector of the Albuquerque canvass, said, "Our workers encountered little resistance. The refusal rate was very low, and indicates good community acceptance of the churches."

He indicated the churches found large groups outside their ministry, as nearly 25 per cent of those canvassed seldom or never attend the churches, and nearly 17 per cent have no church membership.

The six largest denominations in the city are Roman Catholic with 33.8 per cent, Baptist with 12.9, Methodist with 12.9, Presbyterians with 8.3, Lutherans with 5.8, and Episcopal with 3.7.

Mabry said Roman Catholics did not participate in the survey because they had conducted their own survey less than a year before, and the Jewish congregations said they had adequate information on their membership.

W. R. Buchanan, Baptist superintendent of city missions for Albuquerque, served as coordinator.

-30-

E. Powell Lee, Evangelistic
Singer, Dies In Alabama

(11-3-65)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--One of Southern Baptists' best known directors of evangelistic music, E. Powell Lee, died here Oct. 29 at the age of 75.

The Forest Park, Ga. native spent a lifetime in the field of church music, serving both local churches and with the denomination's Division of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board.

Lee was music director of churches in Selma, Birmingham, Little Rock, Raleigh, and Miami. Then for several years he led singing in tabernacle meetings with evangelist George T. Stephens and other Southern Baptist leaders, such as George W. Truett, M. E. Dodd, Roland Leavell, and Frank Tripp.

He served as a YMCA secretary in both World War I and II. The last nine years of his ministry was with the evangelism division as director of music.

Lee graduated from Mercer University (Baptist) in Macon, Ga., and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He studied music with John Sample of Chicago, Madame Schoen Rene of New York, and John F. Williamson, director of the Westminster Choir School.

In retirement after 1957 in Montgomery, he stayed busy speaking in schools of missions and working in revivals.

He is survived by Mrs. Lee, the former Helen Jackson of Little Rock; a daughter, Mrs. Dixie Lee Davies of Oklahoma City, and Jack Lee of Montgomery. Another son, Powell Jr. was killed in World War II.

Johnni Johnson Elected By
Missionary Education Group

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Missionary Education Council moved the production of 30 mission study books forward another peg and voted to develop 10 more books in 1970.

Five of the new books will encompass Baptist progress in the New England area and the others on Chinese mission field ministries.

At the three-day meeting at the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, the council elected Miss Johnni Johnson of Richmond, Va., as chairman.

Miss Johnson, assistant to the director of the Division of Visual Education of the Foreign Mission Board, succeeded Jay Durham, of Atlanta, Ga., director of the promotion department of the Home Mission Board.

Other 1966 officers are Roy Jennings, curriculum coordinator of the Brotherhood Commission, vice chairman; and Miss Josephine Pile of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, secretary.

The council, composed of 45 representatives of six Baptist agencies and six seminaries, voted to meet October 26-28, 1966 at Birmingham, Ala., with the Woman's Missionary Union as host.

Twenty Memphians in the fields of religion and education served as resource persons.

The council was organized 20 years ago to advise in the production of home and foreign mission study materials for Southern Baptists.

At annual sessions the council works on 40 books at various stages of production. Ten are published annually.

More than 600,000 Southern Baptists in 10,000 churches study the mission books during February and November each year.

Foreign mission books for study this month are Which Way In Brazil? by Lester C. Bell, Sao Paulo Hears the Gospel by Gene H. Wise, Banner-Bearers by Maxie C. Kirk, A Boy Named Nelson by Mary Hazel Moon, and Francisco's Happiest Day by Sue P. Vernon.

Home mission books for study in February are Panama, The Land Between by Walker Knight, Bonanza South by Billie Pate, East Is West by John Carter, Guaymi Boy by Kathleen McCormick, Coconuts For Peter by Florence Hearn.

-30-

British Roman Catholics
Visit Moscow Baptists

(11-3-65)

LONDON (BP)--A group of Roman Catholics from Britain, accompanied by an Anglican clergyman, visited Russia recently, spending a night in prayer at the monastery of the Russian Orthodox Church at Zagorsk and worshipping with the Moscow Baptist Church.

An account of the visit, written by Canon Anthony Hulme, a Roman Catholic priest, was published in The Baptist Times of London.

Canon Hulme describes the Baptist church, the only Baptist church in a city of over 6,000,000, with crowded services on Sunday and during the week. He speaks of "many valiant old ladies," a youth choir, and "a sprinkling of in-betweens" in the service the visitors attended.

"When I was asked to speak," he continues, "I said we brought a message of brotherly love from their Roman Catholic brothers in Britain, and of recognition of the valiant service of God of the heroic Baptist church of Russia. I said our coming would under God be the sign of the beginning of a new day, a day of hope.

"Even as I spoke, putting all the conviction I could into the words of a language they could not understand, with gesture of complete fraternity, many wept. They knew this was a message from without, that it was a gesture from without their ranks that was not hostile but truly full of encouragement, that this was a message of love and hope.

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"They sensed that...and wept even before the translator spoke, then afterward. Some of our own pilgrims wept. A full-throated hymn ended this most memorable, most moving service. I have been in many wonderful places. Never have I known such an occasion.

"We were asked to bring particular brotherly greetings to the Baptists of England... I need not say what pleasure it gives me to convey this message of goodwill for these wonderful Baptists of Moscow...

"May I add one word on my own behalf: that the wishes from Russia, though more precious, are no more sincere than the personal good wishes I send likewise to all my Baptist brothers."

*See Editors Note below

-30-

CORRECTION, Baptist Press release of Nov. 2, "Evangelism Adds Allison For Academic Community," 8th paragraph, 2nd line, should be374,000 converts last year.

CORRECTION, Baptist Press release of Nov. 2, "Baptists Ask Churches For Cuban Refugee Aid," last paragraph of story should read:

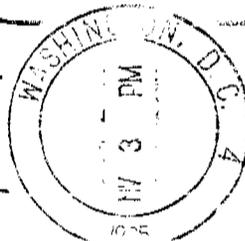
If churches can assist with clothing, food, or welcome kits (personal items such as soap, razors, etc.) these should be sent to the Cuban Relief Center, 1452 N.W. 36th St., Miami, Fla. 33142.

*EDITORS NOTE: Photo of officers of Missionary Education Council being sent to Baptist state papers.

MIAMI 22A13 7557

BAPTIST PRESS

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THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE BAPTIST PRESS

WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

Cutlines

November 3, 1965

Baptist Press Photo

MISSIONARY EDUCATION COUNCIL OFFICERS for the coming year are Johnni Johnson, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va. (left), chairman; Josephine Pile, Sunday School Board, Nashville, vice-chairman; Roy Jennings, Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, secretary. (BP) Photo

-30-