

January 4, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS OBSERVE "WILL-MAKING WEEK"

ALEXANDRIA, La.--(BP)--Louisiana Baptists have decreed January 9-16 as "will-making week."

Dr. Herschel C. Pettus, director-treasurer of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation, urged that "every adult Baptist should make a will and include our Baptist work in it. No stewardship program is complete without the making of a will. It is just as important to provide for the wise use of our possessions after we die as it is to use them wisely while we live."

According to Dr. Pettus' records, only four out of ten property-owners leave wills, and 80 per cent of these wills are broken, primarily because of faulty preparation. "This means that 92 per cent of American property owners leave their possessions to the mercy of the courts, causing in many instances confusion and discord among the heirs," Dr. Pettus said. "This should not be true among Christians."

He urged that persons already having wills should have the wills reviewed by a lawyer and brought up to date.

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WORKERS AMONG DEAF ORGANIZE TO INCREASE THEIR MINISTRY

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Workers among the deaf in Baptist churches in seven states attended an organizational meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Deaf Workers here and announced their purpose to "make sure the deaf are not denied the privilege of religious service."

The session was held at First Baptist Church here where an interpreter has relayed Dr. R. Paul Caudill's sermons to the "silent members" of the congregation at every service for more than three years. Dr. J. W. Gardner of Atlanta, Ga., an employe of the Baptist Home Mission Board, was elected president, and Mrs. William Latham of Memphis, secretary, of the new group.

Dr. Caudill, host to the conference, said the "work among the deaf we started on a full scale in October 1945 is just beginning." He cited as proof a vote of his church's Board of Deacons to recommend that the church add one of its "silent members" to the board in 1949.

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SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
GIFTS EXCEED \$6,000,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptist churches set an all time record by contributing in excess of \$6,000,000 to the denomination's national Cooperative Program in 1948.

Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, has announced that \$6,000,837.30 was received by his office and distributed on a percentage basis to the Convention's institutions and agencies during the year.

Total monies handled by his office, including designated gifts, were \$8,865,790.80, Dr. McCall said. Of this figure, the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va., received \$4,209,915.25 for Baptist mission work overseas.

Dr. McCall estimated that other gifts sent direct from the churches to Southern Baptist institutions would boost the overall total well beyond \$10,000,000, but definite figures will not be available until the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Oklahoma City next May.

The 1948 figures compare with 1947 Cooperative Program gifts of \$5,217,762.39, meaning an increase of \$783,074.91 this year, and with 1947 total gifts of \$7,356,226.65, meaning an increase of \$1,509,564.15 this year.

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GERMAN BAPTISTS GRATEFUL
FOR RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Contributions of American Baptists to world relief have helped furnish Christian literature to German Baptists as well as feed and clothe the physical needy of their numbers.

Dr. R. Paul Caudill, chairman of the relief committee of the Baptist World Alliance, has released a letter received from Eberhard Schroder, director of the German Baptist Publication Society. It follows:

"This morning I read in my Bible 'Grace be with you all' (Hebrews 13). But when I went to the publication office my heart troubled deeply about paper. Just in these days for the first time we had published again our Sunday school paper after the disturbance of 8 years! What a joy that means for our children and a help for our missionary work you hardly may imagine. But that costs a lot of paper and our store had become small. I did not know how to go on in December-January with our periodicals. In this very moment came a telegram that 180 bales of cellulose arrived in Hamburg. I cannot but praise the Lord and thank His children with all my heart. Now we can do our work -- in His vineyard-- with new force. It is a wonderful experience we have made so often like the prophet Isaiah (65:24). My heart is full of joy! In deep gratefulness I write these lines and sent this greeting from my heart."

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