

November 30, 1965

**Dallas Church Still
Ranks SBC's Largest**

By the Baptist Press

Seven of the ten largest churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are located in Texas, including the denomination's largest church--the 13,291-member First Baptist Church of Dallas.

A list of Baptist churches with 5,000 or more members has been compiled by the research and statistics service of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. This is what the report revealed:

Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., with 8,105 members is second in total membership to the Dallas congregation.

Churches ranked third through eighth in church membership are all in Texas.

Seventeen Southern Baptist churches have more than 5,000 members. Eleven are in Texas; one each in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Louisiana.

Listed in order of total membership behind the two largest Dallas and Memphis churches are:

- First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., 8,024 members; (3rd)
- First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex., 7,940 members; (4th)
- First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., 7,702; (5th)
- First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex., 7,072; (6th)
- First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., 6,817 members (7th)
- Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, 6,615 members; (8th)
- First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., 6,255 members; 6,255 members; (9th)
- Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., 6,133 members; (10th)
- First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, 5,872 members; (11th)
- South Main Baptist Church, Houston, 5,777 members (12th)
- Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, 5,631 members (13th)
- Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., 5,326 members (14th)
- First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., 5,323 members (15th)
- First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., 5,327 members (16th)
- Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, 5,103 members (17th)

Two churches in Dallas are in the top ten list, and two in Fort Worth are in the top 17.

First Baptist in Dallas ranks first not only in total membership, but also in Sunday School and Training Union enrollment.

Sunday School enrollment at the Dallas church is 8,322, and Training Union enrollment is 3,038.

First Baptist, Amarillo, ranks second in Sunday School enrollment with 4,997 on the rolls; and Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth is second in Training Union enrollment with 1,781. The Fort Worth church ranks thirteenth in total membership.

First Baptist Church in Lubbock ranks third in total membership, Sunday School enrollment (4,560); and Training Union enrollment (1,653).

Bellevue Church in Memphis, which ranks second in total membership, rates only 14th in Sunday School enrollment (2,662), and 10th in Training Union enrollment (1,136), among the 17 largest SBC churches.

Of the top 17 churches in total membership, First Baptist in Amarillo baptized the most new converts--a total of 323.

First Baptist Dallas ranked second in baptisms with 301. They were the only two of the top 17 churches which baptized more than 200 during the church year ending in October.

SBC, ABC, BWA Leader
C. Oscar Johnson, Dies

OAKLAND, Calif. (BP)--C. Oscar Johnson, who served as an elected officer of the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Convention, and Baptist World Alliance, died here at the age of 79.

Johnson was pastor of the Third Baptist Church of St. Louis, Mo., for 27 years. His congregation was affiliated with both the SBC and the ABC.

Since retiring in 1958 from the pastorate, he had been teaching on the faculty of Berkeley Baptist Divinity School here. He had been ill shortly before his death, Nov. 24.

Johnson was vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1947; president of the American Baptist Convention, 1932-33; and president of the Baptist World Alliance, 1947-50.

In 1961 he was named "clergyman of the year" by the Religious Heritage of America Foundation of Washington, D. C.

During his 50 year ministry, Johnson was pastor of churches in Newport Beach and Los Angeles, Calif.; Tacoma, Wash.; and Campbellsburg, Ky.

A native of Tennessee, Johnson was a graduate of Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Both Carson-Newman College and William Jewell College (Baptist), Liberty, Mo., conferred honorary doctor of divinity degrees upon him.

He is survived by his wife, Rose L. Johnson of Oakland; a son, Ralph M. Johnson, former president of Berkeley Baptist Divinity School and now a pastor in Everett, Wash.; a daughter, Ruth E. Johnson of San Jose, Calif.; and several grandchildren.

(Memorial gifts may be made to Berkeley Baptist Divinity School for the C. Oscar and Rose Johnson Chair of Evangelism and Preaching.)

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Utah-Idaho Convention
Holds 1st Annual Session

11-30-65

MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho (BP)--In an historic session, the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention met here for its first annual convention, re-electing the hos pastor as president.

C. Raymond Clearley, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Mountain Home where sessions were held, is the president of the 6500-member convention.

The convention was created last January in an organizational session when Clearley was elected president. It became the 29th state Baptist convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Although the convention has actually met twice, the meeting here Nov. 22-24 was considered its "first annual session" since all succeeding conventions will be held in the fall.

Other officers of the convention elected in the historic session were John Embery, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Brigham City, Utah, first vice-president; and George Eichler, pastor of Calvary Southern Baptist Church of Idaho Falls, Idaho, second vice-president.

The new convention adopted a \$173,907 budget and approved a ten-year projected plan of activities.

In its first session as a state organization, the Brotherhood (laymen's) Convention elected Charles Tague of Salt Lake City as its first president. Tague is a general contractor.

The Utah-Idaho Baptist Pastors' Conference re-elected Embery of Brigham City, Utah, as president; and the Woman's Missionary Union Convention re-elected Mrs. John Embery as president.

Charles Ashcraft of Salt Lake City is executive secretary-treasurer of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, and editor of the convention's publication.

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First Baptist Elected
To Idaho Public Office

BOISE, Idaho (BP)--For the first time in Idaho history, a Southern Baptist has been elected to a major public office in the state.

Jay Amyx, a layman from Mt. View Baptist Church here, is the new mayor of the city of Boise. He is the first Southern Baptist ever to hold public office in Idaho, according to Baptist officials of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

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Oregon Student Leader
Killed in Car Accident

11-30-65

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Jim Stuart, graduate student in veterinary medicine at Washington State University and Baptist Student Union leader, was killed in an automobile accident in eastern Washington November 23.

David Moseley, a passenger in the car, received minor injuries. He is the son of Fred B. Moseley, assistant to the executive secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Stuart recently completed a term as vice-president of the state council of Baptist Student Union. His father is pastor of Mill Park Baptist Church here.

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C O R R E C T I O N :

On story mailed 11-22-65, headlined "Seminary Breaks Ground on New \$600,000 Library," please correct graph 2, line 1 to read:

"The new building, which will house 160,000 volumes and double. . ." (changing the figure from 14,000 as sent to the correct 160,000).

Thanks

--Baptist Press