

December 3, 1965

EDITORS: Here is the final wrapup on the SBC Home Mission Board meeting in Atlanta.

**Baptist Efforts In U. S.
Missions To Increase**

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists can expect new methods and a stepped-up tempo to their national growth efforts in the immediate future, the denomination's Home Mission Board was told here.

The board heard its top executive call for 500 more churches a year to keep up with population growth and for a creative approach to stay abreast with today's changes.

The agency revealed through a record budget, new personnel, and program decision that a new era has begun in sharing its responsibilities toward making the nation Christian.

Two days of committee and general sessions of the annual meeting emphasized the basic aims of the board--winning converts and starting new churches.

Executive Secretary Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, head of the agency for only a year, has strongly placed his imprint upon the organization.

Half of his Atlanta-based leadership staff of 61 hold positions given them in the last year as expansion, retirement, and reorganization have brought changes.

At this meeting mission leaders were elected for evangelism, language work, rural-urban missions, property supervision, church extension, and editorial work.

The agency also adopted a record \$8 million budget, which primarily supports evangelism, new churches, and more than 2,500 missionaries.

In addition the agency heard a report on the use of more than \$15 1/2 million in 1 an funds used to start and build new churches.

Also, \$50,000 of expected missions funds from the advance section of the Cooperative Program were voted for use in Louisiana to meet needs of churches and individuals following damage by Hurricane Betsy in September.

The budget, because of cooperative mission efforts with 29 state Baptist conventi ns, is supplemented substantially in actual mission work.

Rutledge challenged the agency to a creative approach in contemporary missions, required by the "rapid changes that call for new insights and procedures."

He called attention to currents affecting society, such as population, increased knowledge, racial injustice, international conflicts, secularism, and moral revolution.

To meet these changes more effectively he indicated an increased emphasis would be given to research and special test projects, noting that present studies were underway with ex-prisoners, problems of churches in transitional communities, and the downtown church.

Test projects now are studying ministries to high-rise apartments, social ministries in mountain missions, and the use of newspaper advertising in evangelism.

He called for more than 500 new churches each year "to maintain the present membership ratio t the expanding population.

"Unreached areas and teeming cities provide challenges of the first magnitude for the beginning of needed churches," he said.

He als called for continued emphasis on ministering to all persons of special need, regardless of race or other characteristics.

In a move to strengthen its approach to th Baptist association, l cal groupings f churches, the board effected a minor re rganization of the missions division.

A new position, that of associate director to Hugo Culpepper, was created and given to veteran missions leader Loyd Corder of Atlanta, now secretary of the language missions department.

Culpepper said that while Corder would assist in all of the work of the division, he would major in coordinating mission work through Baptist associations.

Corder will coordinate the board's programs of establishing new churches and church-type missions and associational administration as implemented by departments in the division.

To replace Corder, his associate, Gerald B. Palmer was asked to become secretary of the language missions department.

C. Wilson Brumley, a native of Many, La., now the associate secretary of the rural-urban department was named secretary of that work.

M. Wendell Belew was made program secretary of the department of pioneer missions, and E. Warren Woolf of Atlanta, Baptist student director for Georgia Tech, heads a new department of special mission ministries.

Another new position, that of secretary of mission property, was given to Meeler Markham, now state missions secretary for Kansas Southern Baptists.

William D. Lawes of Phoenix, presently evangelism director for Baptists in Arizona, will become associate director of the division of evangelism to do evangelism promotion.

Added to the editorial department was a news editor, Dallas M. Lee of Philadelphia, Pa. Now news bureau chief for "Purchasing Week," a publication of McGraw-Hill Inc., Lee will also serve as associate editor of the board's magazine.

The board re-elected Edgar M. Arendall, pastor of the Dawson Memorial Baptist Church of Birmingham, as its president, and also re-elected David Hall of Phoenix as first vice-president, W. Arnold Smith of Atlanta as second vice-president, and Mrs. Clint E. Rogers of Atlanta as recording secretary. Miss Marie Cooper of Atlanta was named assistant recording secretary.

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Houston Graham Crusade
Ends, 14,063 "Decisions"

12-3-65

HOUSTON (BP)--Baptist evangelist Billy Graham closed his Greater Houston Crusade here with more than 61,000 people packing the famed domed stadium, including President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.

During the ten-day crusade, a total of 14,063 "decisions for Christ" were recorded. Total attendance for the crusade was 380,194.

It was the largest Graham crusade since the Los Angeles meeting two years ago when nearly one million people attended.

For the first time, the Houston Astrodome overflowed with a crowd of 61,000 attending the final session.

Several thousand carried cushions to the playing field where they sat on the ground. Never before had the 48,000-seat air-conditioned stadium been filled beyond capacity.

After the final Graham sermon, an estimated 1,600 came forward to express decisions and make inquiries.

Meanwhile, President and Mrs. Johnson sat and stood through the entire service in a special private box high above the speaker's platform.

Following the service, Graham made his way to the presidential box. The president reportedly told Graham in private that it was a very moving service.

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December 3, 1965

3

Baptist Press

It is believed to have been the first time a president while in office attended an evangelistic crusade .

Graham told the president during the service: "This great audience today would join me in pledging our loyalty to America, and pledging our prayers on your behalf that God will continue to grant you wisdom, strength, and courage for the overwhelming responsibilities that you bear."

Following the crusade, Graham said that he felt much stronger than when the crusade started. He said a slight infection which was annoying during the early days of the crusade was gone.

The Houston crusade had been postponed twice because of complications following surgery on the famed Baptist evangelist.

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