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January 14, 1966

**SBC Slates Race
Relations Sunday**

By the Baptist Press

For the second year, Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation will observe Race Relations Sunday, Feb. 13, in an effort to practice and teach justice, goodwill and love for all mankind without racial limitation.

Many Baptist pastors will deliver sermons on race relations during the special observance. Some will exchange pulpits with churches of different racial and language groups.

Race Relations Sunday is being sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Last year, Race Relations Sunday was placed on the denominational calendar for the first time.

A packet of materials suggesting ways in which churches can observe Race Relations Sunday and with information about Christianity and race relations has been mailed to pastors, educational workers, and church leaders of each of the 33,000 Baptist churches in the denomination.

In a cover letter with the materials, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., said that few religious bodies have as much at stake or as many resources for Christian relationships between all men as do Southern Baptists.

"We thank God for the progress evidenced in a genuine ministry of reconciliation," said Dehoney, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., in the letter.

There is no way to determine how many churches in the denomination will actually conduct special emphases during the observance, Baptist officials said.

The director of the Christian Life Commission, Foy Valentine of Nashville, said he wished that every church would observe the Sunday in some way, for it would be "a deeply rewarding spiritual experience."

"Through this special observance," Valentine said, "I pray that new doors of Christian ministry, Christian fellowship and Christian renewal may be opened."

The Executive Secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, said that race relations is one of the crucial issues of our time, and that its basic dimensions are moral and spiritual, not political, economic, educational or social.

"The problem is so complex that we may try to ignore it. Or, we may seek to shrug off our responsibility with the comment that, after all this is a political matter, or an educational issue, or an economic problem," Rutledge said. "But the Christian cannot avoid having responsibility in every area that affects human welfare."

"Race Relations Sunday furnishes a reminder that all men come from God, and that God makes no distinction because of race or other external factors," Rutledge added. "Jesus is the way to unity in the midst of our diversity," he said.

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NOTE TO EDITORS AND OTHERS: If you learn of unusual or significant ways in which a Baptist church observes Race Relations Sunday, please call Baptist Press or write us immediately and we will do a follow-up story immediately after Feb. 13.

Johnson To Direct
Panama Missions

ATLANTA (BP)--Joe Carl Johnson of Albuquerque, director of missions for New Mexico Southern Baptists, has been appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here as superintendent of Baptist work in Panama and the Canal Zone.

Johnson and his wife, also appointed by the board, will depart for Balboa, Canal Zone, about Feb. 1. Both are former Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.

He will replace L. D. Wood, now assistant secretary of the Home Mission Board's language missions department, who served in Panama about five years.

"The board felt that Johnson's experience as a foreign missionary, pastor, and missions administrator especially qualified him for this responsibility," said Gerald Palmer, secretary of language missions for the board.

Johnson and his wife, the former Colene Richards of Allen, Tex., were appointed in 1950 by the SBC Foreign Mission Board to serve in Northern Brazil. Due to Mrs. Johnson's illness, they returned to the U. S. in 1955. Johnson has served since as pastor in Raton and Hatch, N. M., and as director of missions for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.

A native of Merit, Tex., Johnson was pastor of the Pecan Heights Baptist Church in Dallas from 1947-1950. During World War II, he served as a chaplain in the Pacific. He holds degrees from East Texas State University at Commerce, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Wood, who returned from Panama this fall, says Baptist work is progressing well in Panama. The small Central American country has its own Panama Baptist Convention.

Johnson will have seven Home Mission Board appointees working with him as area missionaries. His responsibilities as superintendent will be similar to those of the executive secretary of a state convention, though possibly broader. He will make all recommendations concerning the use of funds and personnel.

The Baptist community in Panama and the Canal Zone totals about 12,000 to 15,000. Baptized believers in Baptist churches total about 5,500.

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Teaching Chair To Honor
Late Mountain Preacher

1-14-66

PINEVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Clear Creek Baptist School will honor the 100th anniversary of a pioneer mountain preacher by establishing the A. S. Petrey Chair of Christian Missions and Church History at the Baptist Bible school here.

Petrey who was born in 1866 and lived in Hazard, Ky., until his death in 1952, was challenged by the spiritual needs of the isolated mountain areas in Eastern Kentucky.

He was a frequent visitor on the campus of Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School founded in 1926, and at the Hazard Baptist Institute founded in 1902 in Hazard, Ky.

Petrey organized the First Missionary Baptist Church of Hazard, Ky. Seven other Baptist churches developed from this church, including Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard and the First Baptist Church in Whitesburg, Ky.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Please substitute the following for graph 3 of story mailed 1-12-66, headlined "Christian Service Corps Gets Brotherhood Assist"; Graph should read:

With the help of the Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union organizations, the board expects to more than double the task force in 1966.

--Atlanta Office, Baptist Press

Crusade of Americas
Committee Appointed

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--A six-member Southern Baptist advisory steering committee to coordinate plans for the proposed 1969 Baptist evangelistic campaign throughout the entire western hemisphere has been appointed, it was announced here.

Serving as chairman of the committee is Wayne Dehoney, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

Appointment of the committee was announced by W. Douglas Hudgins, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Baptist Church here.

The SBC Executive Committee, meeting last September, had approved Southern Baptist participation in the vast evangelistic crusade and asked Hudgins to appoint the committee.

Serving on the committee will be Dehoney, Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, and a vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance; Ray Roberts, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio; M. B. Carroll, pastor of the East Grand Baptist Church in Dallas; Owen Cooper, a Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss.; and J. Conally Evans, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ocala, Fla.

The committee will correlate plans for the crusade with the two mission boards, and with Baptist bodies in other countries.

Each Baptist body will conduct its crusade in its own way at a time which is most suitable in 1969.

The "Crusade of the Americas" was proposed by Rubens Lopes of Brazil in 1965 following a nation-wide evangelistic campaign in Brazil. Lopes spoke at both the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas and the Baptist World Alliance in Miami.

Baptist bodies in North, South and Central America have been invited to participate in the crusade.

The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Dallas, instructed its two mission boards to investigate possibilities with Baptist leaders in the countries involved, and adopted a resolution encouraging Southern Baptist participation.

The Convention's Executive Committee later approved Southern Baptist participation in the crusade and set up procedures for coordinating plans, including appointment of the committee named by Hudgins.

Plans for the campaign in the United States will be launched during the final session of the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in Detroit, May 24-27.

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Maryland Elects First
Full-Time BSU Secretary

1-14-66

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--The executive committee of the Maryland Baptist State Mission Board has reached out to the U. S. Air Force Academy in Colorado to provide the first full-time Baptist Student Union (BSU) secretary for Maryland Baptists with offices here.

Keith H. Harris, director of military personnel Baptist student work at the academy since 1963, has been elected to the Maryland Baptist post, effective Feb. 1.

A native of Providence, R. I., with educational and professional experience in the West, Harris is a former pastor and Baptist youth worker in Colorado, Arizona, and Texas.

He attended the University of Arizona in Tuscon, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and did additional study at Texas Western College in El Paso, Tex., and Arlington State College, Arlington, Tex. He earned the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Broomfield, Col., and First Baptist Church, Covington, Tex., and was youth director of Calvary Baptist Church, Casa Grande, Ariz.

Harris will coordinate the work of two area Baptist Student Union secretaries in the Maryland convention, and direct the convention's total program in ministering to Baptist students attending non-Baptist institutions.

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