



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**FEATUERS**

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March 22, 1966

Baptists In Michigan  
"Like Sacred Fire"

By Fred D. Hubbs  
Executive Secretary  
Baptist State Convention of Michigan

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For 15 years, Southern Baptists in Michigan have organized new churches at the rate of almost one per month.

We have grown from a beginning of six churches in 1951 to 148 churches and 49 chapels in 1966.

The secret of such rapid growth? Dedicated people.

People like Frank Todd, who moved his family from Detroit to Bay City, Mich., in 1957. This layman wanted a Southern Baptist church in the Bay City area. The First Baptist Church of Clio, Mich., was enlisted to help.

The first meeting was held in the Todd home. Today, a fine Southern Baptist church ministers to the Bay City area.

People like Missionary Robert Wilson, who stopped to have lunch at a small restaurant in Standish, Mich.

He asked the waitress if there was a Baptist church in town.

"No", she replied. "But there are several Baptist families that I know of here in town."

Wilson took the names and addresses of the Baptist families. Before the day was over, he had called on each of them.

A mission was started, and from that beginning, work spread to East Tawas and Oscoda, Mich.

Thus, three fine churches grew out of an incidental conversation with a waitress at a restaurant.

The stories of people, Baptist people concerned with the spread of the Gospel, are numerous.

Herb Copeland, a Virginia native and member of a mission church in Belleville, Mich., was transferred a few years ago to the far north of Michigan. He was stationed at K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base in the Upper Peninsula.

We had no Southern Baptist work in that area, where the population is sparse. Copeland and his family began services in their house trailer.

Again, Missionary Bob Wilson was soon on the scene. From that beginning, with sponsorship 700 miles away, we now have five churches and two missions ministering to the Upper Peninsula area.

For a long time, Bill and Peggy Boone drove about 12 miles from their home in Clio, Mich., to attend church in Flint, Mich.

Then the church they attended in Flint, the Ballenger Park Baptist Church, sponsored a mission in Clio. A mission pastor was called immediately, and the Boones opened their home for the first meeting.

The mission grew rapidly and soon became the First Baptist Church of Clio. This church now has in turn sponsored five other missions that have become churches, and two of these churches have sponsored missions.

This gave the Clio church five children, and two grandchildren, in just nine short years.

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In 1954, Jean Ann Durham, a schoolteacher in Southwest Michigan, wrote a letter to the missionaries' office in Detroit. She asked if it were possible to begin a Southern Baptist work in the Southwestern section of Michigan.

After answering her letter, I contacted Clifton McNeeley, a native of Kentucky and long-time resident of Berrien Springs, Mich. McNeeley became a strong 'stack pole' for the Southern Baptist work in the Southwest section of the state.

The Lord called McNeeley on home to Glory several years ago, but there are churches spotted around over Southwestern Michigan as a result of his dedication and that of Jean Ann Dunham.

As a direct result of summer field workers' dedicated survey work, a dedicated mission pastor, and a waiting people, a Baptist church was established in the city of Livonia.

The summer field workers secured a stack of prospect cards. They turned the cards over to the mission pastor, it was all he had to begin his work.

Today, a great church has grown up in the city of 50,000 people. The Livonia Baptist Church now has more than 400 members and a budget of \$55,000 annually.

In Ypsilanti, Mich., the North Prospect Baptist Church was the first to begin in that city. You might say it all started at a bus stop.

In Ypsilanti to conduct a spot survey of the city, I parked my car and encountered two young ladies standing at a bus stop.

Introducing myself as a Southern Baptist missionary, I asked the girls if they knew of any Southern Baptists living nearby.

One of the girls, a Miss Combes, expressed delight over meeting a Southern Baptist missionary.

"My mother and dad are Southern Baptists," she said, "and I know they would want to meet you."

She left the bus stop and took me to her home. There I met Mrs. Combes and secured the names of 35 people who might be interested in a Southern Baptist church.

Services were planned. Within a week, 55 people showed up for Sunday School.

As a result of that beginning at a bus stop, there are four churches now in Ypsilanti.

The stories go on and on.

When many of our friends visit us for the Southern Baptist Convention at Detroit, May 24-27, they will see for themselves something of the missionary spirit among our people.

The secret of church growth here is dedicated people.

We have seen them at work in Michigan.

"The word, like scared fire, flew from heart to heart," And it's happening here.



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March 22, 1966

Religious Ed Workers  
 To Meet With Musicians

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DETROIT (BP)--For the first time, the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association and the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will hold a joint session to open the two respective meetings just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Both organizations will meet May 23-24 in Detroit, beginning with a joint session Monday afternoon and going into separate conferences for the remainder of the meetings which each conclude Tuesday afternoon, May 24.

Principal speaker for the joint session will be E. Paul Torrance, head of the department of educational psychology at the University of Minnesota, and director of educational research for the university.

The joint session will also feature a message by Warren C. Hultgren, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

The unique joint meeting will enable many Southern Baptist ministers of education and music who hold combination positions with Baptist churches to attend one session instead of being torn between two on the opening day, said Henry E. Love, president of the Religious Education Association.

The charters of both organizations encourage joint meetings, said Love, minister of education at the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.

Torrance, a Southern Baptist native of Georgia and author of half a dozen scholarly books, will speak a second time to the Religious Education Association when it goes into its separate sessions Monday evening, May 23.

Also delivering a major address during the Monday night session will be W. L. Howse, director of the education division for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Other major speakers for the Religious Education Association will be Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond; Jesse C. Fletcher; personnel secretary for the Foreign Mission Board; and E. W. Westmoreland, church building consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Much of the Tuesday morning program will be devoted to a series of ten-minute digests on questions such as: Where Are We Missing the Mark with Young Adults?; Are Today's Enlistment Methods Relevant?; How Can We Enlist More Young People in Church-Related Vocations?; What Can We Do to Reverse the Trend in Baptisms?

The closing session at the Religious Education Conference will emphasize the challenge of the big city in America, and the future of religious education in foreign missions. Sessions will be held in Room 3037 at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

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Music Conference  
 Features Concerts

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DETROIT (BP)--The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference slated here May 23-24 will feature concerts by four choirs and a bass soloist, along with four major addresses during sessions slated just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention here.

The Church Music Conference will open Monday afternoon with a joint session with the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association in Cobo Hall.

The two conferences will split into separate meetings Monday night, when the musicians will hear a concert by the First Presbyterian Church choir of Detroit. The choir is directed by Gordon Young, a noted composer whose music is sung by many Southern Baptist church choirs.

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The Monday night concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 2930 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. All sessions on Tuesday, May 24, will meet at the Woodward Avenue Baptist Church, 2480 Woodward Avenue.

Principal speakers for the conference will be James B. Wallace, dean of the music school at the University of Michigan; James D. Woodward, president of the Music Conference and minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla.; Warren C. Hultgren, pastor of the same Tulsa church; and E. Paul Torrance, head of the department of educational psychology at the University of Minnesota.

Torrance and Hultgren will address the joint session of the Church Music and Religious Education Association Conferences.

Concerts will be presented by the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma, the Madrigaleans of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, choirs from Samford University (formerly Howard College), Birmingham, Ala., and Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and by David Ford, bass soloist from Waco, Tex.

Bill Reynolds, director of editorial services for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, will lead the song services during the conference.

Music Conference President James Woodward of Tulsa said that the emphasis on concerts by outstanding choral groups and soloists was projected because ministers of music at Baptist churches like to hear professional-quality music presented by outstanding craftsmen.

The conference is designed mostly for inspiration and fellowship, said Woodward. Only major business listed on the program is election of officers.

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Evangelists' Conference  
Features Seven Messages

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DETROIT (BP)--The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists slated here the afternoon of May 26 will feature messages by six evangelists and the famed R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Program for the Thursday afternoon meeting was released by Don L. Womack of Memphis, Tenn., president of the conference.

Sessions will be held at Ford Auditorium in Detroit adjacent to Cobo Hall where the Southern Baptist Convention will meet. There are no sessions of the SBC Thursday afternoon.

Womack said he expects about 4,000 to attend the conference, which will feature evangelistic and inspirational messages and evangelistic music.

The six evangelists slated to speak are Clift Brannon of Longview, Tex.; Joe Shaver of Memphis; Mike Gilchrist of Lake Charles, La.; Homer Martinez of Fort Worth; John Tierney of Greenville, S. C.; and John Haggai of Atlanta. R. G. Lee will bring the closing message.

A dinner and fellowship meeting is planned at the Pontchartrain Hotel Ontario Room at 6:30 p.m. following the conference.

The conference will open with 50 minutes of special music brought by evangelistic singers Martha Branham of Dallas; Ed and Bette Stalnecker of Ripley, Tenn.; Perry Ellis of Roanoke, Va.; Ron Owens of Atlanta; Jerry Spencer of Terrell, Tex.; Jack Buice of Atlanta; Sonny Rios of Garland, Tex.; and David and Carol Tyson of Ripley, Tenn.

Nearly an hour of sacred music beginning at 1:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon will precede the messages which begin at 2:00 p.m. The conference will conclude about 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 26.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Complete program outlines of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, the Religious Education Association meeting, and the Evangelists' Conference will be mimeographed and mailed to you later this week by Baptist Press.

Congress May Not Act  
On Judicial Review

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist executive here does not expect Congressional action on a proposed Judicial Review Bill unless something happens to stir up more interest than can now be seen.

Walfred H. Peterson, director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in a report to Baptist Press, points out some of the issues in two weeks of hearings on a bill to provide constitutional tests of certain acts of Congress on the grounds of violations of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The hearings were held by the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D., N.C.) is chairman of the subcommittee.

C. Emanuel Carlson, Executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in testimony at the hearings refrained from endorsing the bill. He did, however, favor judicial review in its proper context.

He asked for a "concurrent resolution" to be passed by both houses of Congress encouraging the Supreme Court to continue its trend toward a "more liberal definition of standing to sue."

Peterson said there was little interest in the hearings from news reporters, and that little interest was expressed by the Senators. Only the subcommittee chairman attended the hearings regularly.

Brief appearances were made by only three other Senators during the two week period. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), chief sponsor of the bill, was the only Senator to present testimony.

A church-state issue is always a politically "hot potato," Peterson said. Most Senators were not anxious to get involved since a judicial review bill is not a major public concern at this time, he continued.

Lack of interest may partly be attributed to the technical issues involved, Peterson observed. They concerned the law of "standing to sue" and the meaning of "case and controversy."

There was disagreement on whether Congress could constitutionally define such terms, and whether the proposed bill were actually constitutional.

A more critical issue, he pointed out, had to do with the purpose for support of the bill.

From statements in the hearings, both Ervin and Morse wanted the bill so that taxpayers could easily have standing to sue in federal courts. They also agreed that this was desirable because then some taxpayers could challenge, under the establishment of religion clause, certain acts of Congress providing grants or loans to church-related institutions.

Here agreement ended and "a deep clash of purpose appeared," Peterson said. "Senator Ervin wants this judicial action because he thinks that there is a likelihood that some of the acts of Congress, like the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, are in part unconstitutional."

"But Senator Morse, while granting that the issues are delicate, wants judicial action spurred so that the present doubts about such bills will be ended," Peterson continued.

Ervin wants the bill because he thinks Congress has violated separation of church and state. Morse thinks the bill will give the courts a chance to uphold what Congress has done in the acts in question, Peterson said.

In colloquy following his testimony Morse said that up to now he had helped Congress provide aid to children in private schools by a "subterfuge approach."

"We used the National Defense Education Act approach, we used the contract approach, we used the categorical approach...because we were afraid...that we would be beaten on the constitutional argument," Morse said.

Morse has consistently advocated education aid for all children, whether they are in public or private schools. "I think the public interest calls for a clarification of this institutional issue," he said.

Until this is settled "we are going to find ourselves in a position of still trying to slip through the back doors and the side doors," he stated.

The proposed bill is a result of promises made last year during debate on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. At that time unsuccessful attempts were made to include first amendment constitutional tests in the bill.

Morse, on the grounds that a judicial review amendment would kill the bill, called for defeat of the amendment and promised to introduce a separate bill to cover a number of acts of Congress. The present bill and the hearings were in fulfillment of that promise.

Various church groups and civil liberties organizations presented testimony on the proposed bill.

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Baylor Increases  
Faculty Salaries

3-22-66

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University trustees have adopted a \$10.6 million budget for its Waco schools, including a \$300,000 lump sum for faculty pay raises.

President Abner V. McCall told the trustees that faculty salary raises are vital as competition for teachers becomes more intense.

Baylor, the nation's largest Southern Baptist school, will not increase its present student enrollment and does not plan to increase the size of its faculty, he said.

The \$10,606,455 budget, which balances with an estimated income of the same figure, compares with \$10,025,545 in 1965-66 and \$9,291,994 in 1964-65.

A girls' dormitory which had been known as New Hall since opening in 1962 was designated as Russell Hall by action of the trustees. The dormitory had previously never been given an official name and was called New Hall for convenience.

The name adopted by the board was in honor of a Houston couple, Mr. <sup>and</sup> Mrs. Willard L. Russell, both Baylor graduates. Russell formerly taught psychology at Baylor and Mrs. Russell holds a degree in music.

Through the Russell Foundation, they recently donated 134 acres of land near Houston valued at \$250,000 to Baylor.

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Health Plan Enrollment  
Opens; Deadline June 1

3-22-66

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DALLAS (BP)--The semi-annual enrollment period for the Health Benefit Plan offered to Southern Baptist church and denominational employees by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board is open from now until May 31.

The announcement was made here by Baynard F. Fox, director of the life and health department for the SBC Annuity Board.

Fox said any Southern Baptist minister or denominational employee, except hospital employees, who want the hospital-surgical-major medical protection must have his application and check in the Dallas office by May 31 in order to have coverage on July 1.

He said information about the health plan has been mailed to Baptist-employed persons who are eligible for participation.

Fox said ministers failing to meet the May 31 deadline will have to wait until the next enrollment period scheduled in the fall. Enrollment is on a semi-annual basis, he said.

Fox said no physical examination is required. A person may join the plan regardless of his health just as long as he is actively employed by Southern Baptists.

The Health Benefit Plan is underwritten by Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Texas and administered by the Annuity Board.

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