



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES

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Marine Says Mother's Prayers Change A Man

By Cpl. Stanley R. Tiner

DA NANG, Viet Nam. (BP)--Folks back home at the little Baptist church in Pacolet, S. C., probably can't remember when Mrs. Thompson's boy, Grady, has walked through the doors of the church.

It wasn't that Grady was a bad boy--he just quit going to church and that was that. Goodness knows Mrs. Thompson asked him enough times to go, but the tall, gangly kid always seemed just too busy to work it into his schedule.

Sunday was the day all the big cars came into nearby Spartanburg, S. C., and Grady couldn't miss talking about cars, not with the Fords, Chevies, and Plymouths around. He always said that maybe one of these Sundays he would go to Church.

But he didn't, and Mrs. Thompson quit pleading with him. After all, he was the man of the family now that his father had passed on. She didn't quit praying for her boy, though.

Then, Grady joined the Marine Corps.

He went to church at Parris Island because all the other guys did, but when he was transferred to Norfolk, Va., he backslid again. Sunday was such a good day to go to the beach, or catch up on sleep, and anyway, he had a lot of brass to shine on his dress blue uniform.

Grady traded his brass and dress uniform for combat greens in June 1965 and caught a ship to Viet Nam.

As an infantry Marine he has seen a lot of bloodshed since then. He has lived through big battles such as Starlite, Double Eagle and some others.

Men standing next to him have been killed, but Grady hasn't been scratched.

He thinks maybe his mother's prayers have something to do with that.

He goes to church every chance he gets now. Grady has knelt on battlefields in Tam Ky and Qui Nhon, and on ships in the South China Sea before assault landings.

He goes home in early July. He looks forward to seeing his mother and all his friends in Pacolet, and wants to go to the little Baptist church there, too.

Seems like a mother's prayers and a year in Viet Nam can change a man.

240



April 29, 1966

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**Rooms Almost Gone
For SBC In Detroit**

196

DETROIT (BP)--Only a few hotel and motel rooms are still being held for Southern Baptist's use during the annual Southern Baptist Convention here, May 24-27, the convention housing bureau has reported.

As of the last week in April, a total of 4,048 rooms had been assigned to Baptists planning to attend the convention. The housing bureau had reserved a total of 4,330 rooms for those expected to attend the convention.

This does not mean, however, that it is now impossible to get hotel or motel accommodations in Detroit, convention leaders said. It only means that the rooms which had been set aside for convention use are almost all assigned.

The big response in room reservations is some indication of possible attendance, and SBC Executive Committee Executive-Secretary Treasurer Porter W. Routh has estimated that about 13,000 Southern Baptists are expected to be registered messengers for the meeting.

Total attendance, including many who do not register or who attend only attend a few sessions, will go far beyond the 13,000 mark.

Baptists who plan to attend the convention, but have not yet secured accommodations, should write immediately to the Detroit Convention Bureau, 626 Book Building, Detroit, Mich., 48226; or to Robert Wilson, 2619 Cass Ave., Detroit, 48201. Cass is chairman of the SBC housing committee.

-30-

**Baptist Revivals Slated
During Convention Time**

4-29-66

266

DETROIT (BP)--Southern Baptist churches in the area surrounding Detroit and Chicago will hold numerous revival meetings in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual sessions here, May 24-27.

In most cases, the evangelistic efforts will be held the week before the convention.

As a follow-up to the week of revivals in Detroit and surrounding-area churches, a door-to-door evangelism visitation effort is being planned by Detroit Southern Baptists for the Thursday afternoon of the convention, May 26.

In Chicago, the nation's second largest city, evangelistic efforts have already begun prior to the convention.

A Lake Michigan Evangelistic Campaign was conducted April 17-May 1, sponsored by the 64 churches and 14 missions in the Chicago Southern Baptist Association.

The Chicago revivals are part of the Lake Michigan Operation Penetration, launched at a Tri-state Rally in Chicago on March 11. The Operation Penetration effort is in progress among Baptists in Illinois, northern Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Ministers and music directors from throughout the nation are helping lead the revivals. The Chicago crusade was directed by Eual Lawson of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

In Detroit, many of the churches will be concluding their revivals the Sunday just before the convention. Thousands of Southern Baptists who arrive early for the convention will be visiting the churches that Sunday.

Some of the evangelists for the revivals in the Detroit area before the convention include Robert G. Lee of Memphis, Tenn., at the Eber Memorial Baptist Church; Kenneth L. Chafin of Louisville, Ky., at Columbia Avenue Baptist Church of Pontiac, Mich.; K. Owen White of Los Angeles at the First Baptist Church of St. Clair Shores, Mich.; and professional football star Bill Glass of Cleveland, Ohio, at the Bethel Baptist Church, Roseville, Mich.

-30-

April 29, 1966

-2-

Baptist Press

406

Guy Resigns As SBC
Hospital Executive

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The board of directors for Southern Baptist Hospitals meeting here voted unanimously to accept the resignation of T. Sloane Guy Jr., as executive secretary-treasurer, effective June 1.

Joe H. Tuten president of the board of directors, stated that the resignation came "as a result of the convention agency's organizational structure having built-in problems of administration growing out of multiple lines of authority and responsibility."

Guy, has served as executive secretary-treasurer of the agency for the past seven years. The agency includes operation of two hospitals, Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, and Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. Each has its own administrator.

The board of directors voted to refer to a study committee the task of developing and recommending an effective organizational structure which may make the two hospitals more "responsive to the purposes of the convention and to the needs and conditions of the communities which they serve."

The study committee is expected to report to the board at its next scheduled meeting, said Tuten.

The board of directors elected Hardie M. Harrell of Jacksonville, Fla., acting executive secretary-treasurer, to serve during the interim while study and consideration are given to the matter of re-structuring the organization, Tuten reported.

Harrell has recently retired from his position as secretary and assistant vice president of Gulf Life Insurance Co.

In accepting Guy's resignation, the hospital board requested him to represent the hospitals in making an annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit, May 24-27.

The board also approved the recommendation of its executive committee that Guy's salary be continued for one year beyond June 1.

He was also "invited to continue occupancy of the board residence until the end of the present calendar year," said Tuten. "Because of esteem, the board also voted to make him a gift of the board automobile."

The board also took note "of Guy's administrative abilities, and of progress made during the seven year period of his tenure," said Tuten.

Significant expansion projects have been completed, while others are in current progress or under study and planning. In addition, the board's executive office has often been called upon to advise and work with other Baptist hospitals, Tuten said.

As a resident of New Orleans, Guy has participated in various civic and community programs and has been active in business and professional circles.

He has recently been named to the board of directors of the Metropolitan New Orleans Council on Aging. He also holds full accreditation as a hospital chaplain by the American Protestant Hospital Association, and served for a term as chairman of the American Protestant Hospital Association's Council on Church-Hospital relations.

100

Cutlines

April 29, 1966

Baptist Press

BEST NATIONAL STUDY CONFERENCE PLANNED: Members of the steering committee for the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST), leave the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville after approving plans for the first BEST National Study Conference in Nashville, June 13-16. Continuing their discussions on the conference are (left to right) Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, general chairman of BEST; R. Orin Cornett, vice president of Gallaudet College in Washington, D. C., and former director of the Division of Higher Education for the U. S. Office of Education; Bruce Heilman, administrative vice president of George Peabody College, Nashville; Albert McClellan of Nashville, chairman of the BEST steering committee; and John A. Fincher, dean of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and chairman of the SBC Education Commission.

(BP Ph to)