

April 1, 1949

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS CALLED TO DAY OF PRAYER, MAY 4

Dr. Robert G. Lee, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has asked the denomination's churches and homes to observe Wednesday, May 4, as a day for repentance and prayer preliminary to the May 18-22 meeting of the Convention at Oklahoma City.

The Convention president, who is pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, urged pastors to emphasize the day as necessary "in view of the needs and miseries of the world -- so varied and complex."

Dr. Lee also suggested that "in journeying to the Convention there be prayer meetings held on the trains and planes en route to Oklahoma City.

"And, for all those who come in cars, why not pause occasionally for a prayer in the car on the side of the road or as stops are made at gas stations? And as it takes only one to drive a car, let those who are not driving hold occasional prayer sessions in the car as they journey."

---30---

BAPTISTS REPAY "HONOR DEBT"

Baptists in Arkansas are paying off a debt they do not owe. At least the federal courts say that the debt was settled in 1937 when the depression-harassed Arkansas Baptist State Convention paid off a million dollars worth of notes and bonds at 35 cents on the dollar. The courts wiped the slate clean, and the notes and bonds were cancelled.

Six years later, however, the Baptists got to thinking that a moral obligation still existed and they voted to pay the remaining \$700,000. The money is being raised through an Honor Club in which members contribute a dollar each month. Dr. B. L. Bridges, the denomination's executive secretary at Little Rock, says everything will be paid in full by 1950.

---30---

The display of new spring bonnets regularly brings great crowds to church on Easter morn. This undoubtedly was what led the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptist paper, to go poetic as early as 1901:

"Attend your church," the parson cries,
To church each fair one goes;
The old go there to close their eyes,
The young to eye their clothes.

The Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has opened a special studio in Atlanta, Ga., for the broadcast of religious television shows.

If you think Sunday observance laws in this country are too strict, you'll be interested to know that the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem has ruled that lighting an electric bulb on the Sabbath constitutes a profanation.

A Baptist paper reports a survey of motion picture exhibitors revealing that "the public is getting tired of sordidness, crime, and sex in the movies. Small-town audiences want more wholesome stuff, such as nature, children, and animals that the whole family can enjoy."

The territory of the Southern Baptist Convention will extend as far North as the Canadian border if the denomination admits Washington and Oregon petitioners at its annual meeting at Oklahoma City in May.

When Macon, Ga., officials built a new city jail, they wondered what could be done with the old jail. But not for long. They gave it away -- to the Calvary Baptist Church which was looking for a place to worship. The city fathers now hope that the church can instill enough religion from the old jail to make the new jail unneeded.