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## Three Texas Churches Rank Largest in SBC

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Three churches in Texas were listed here as the largest in the Southern Baptist Convention, with two churches in West Texas moving into the second and third place spots for the first time.

The 13,538-member First Baptist Church of Dallas continued as the largest church in the denomination, a tabulation of the largest churches in the SBC by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here disclosed.

Ranked second was First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Tex., with 8,153 members, and listed as third was First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Tex., with 8,143 members reported---a difference of only ten members.

Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., which for many years had been the second largest church in the convention, dropped to fourth in total membership, with 8,110 reported.

Seven of the ten largest churches in the convention are located in Texas, and all seven Texas churches rank from first through eighth, with the Memphis, Tenn., church in fourth spot.

Eighteen churches in the denomination, the largest Protestant church group in the nation, reported memberships exceeding 5,000.

Listed in order of total membership behind the Dallas, Lubbock, Amarillo, and Memphis churches are:

- First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., 7,529 (5th);
- First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex., 7,267 (6th);
- First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., 6,847 (7th);
- Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, 6,433 (8th);
- Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., 6,051 (9th);
- First Baptist Church, Atlanta, 6,041 (10th);
- First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., 6,024 (11th);
- First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, 5,881 (12th);
- South Main Baptist Church, Houston, 5,860 (13th);
- Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, 5,717 (14th);
- First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., 5,416 (15th);
- First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., 5,288 (16th);
- Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, 5,251 (17th);
- Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., 5,202 (18th).

Two churches in Dallas are in the list of ten largest SBC churches, and two in Fort Worth are in the top 18 list.

Only a few changes in rank were noted in a comparison between the list of the SBC's largest churches in membership for this year and the list reported last year.

The biggest change was the move of the Lubbock and Amarillo churches from third and fourth to second and third, with the Memphis church dropping to fourth in rank.

Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and First Baptist Church of Atlanta, ranked ninth and tenth in membership this year, swapped places during the year.

First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., moved from 17th place last year to the 15th largest SBC church, and Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., dropped from 15th last year to 18th this year.

Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, moved up one slot from 18th to 17th in rank in the latest figures reported.

The statistics released by the SBC offices here were tabulated from the churches' 1965 church year reports.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press will carry as a series this week statistical reports also on: churches with the largest number of baptisms, Sunday School, and Training Union enrollments; churches with the largest amounts of total contributions, missions, gifts, and the largest reported property value.

Judicial Review Passes  
Senate, No House Action

WASHINGTON (BP)--A bill providing for tests in federal courts of the constitutionality of certain grants and loans to church-related agencies has passed the United States Senate. Such court procedure is called "judicial review."

The bill is now in the hands of the House of Representatives and is referred to the House Judiciary Committee. As yet no judicial review bill has been introduced in the House, and the Judiciary Committee has scheduled no action on the Senate bill.

As passed by the Senate, the bill is a revision of one introduced earlier by Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.). Sam J. Erwin (D., N.C.), chairman of the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee which handled the bill, was among the co-sponsors.

The bill is in fulfillment of a promise made by Sen. Morse during the debate on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 when unsuccessful attempts were made to include constitutional review.

Senator Morse opposed this provision at that time, saying that it would endanger passage of the education bill. However, he promised to introduce separate judicial review legislation later.

At hearings in March of this year, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, while favoring judicial review of the constitutionality of certain acts of Congress, said he was unable to support the bill under consideration at that time.

The Baptist leader made alternate suggestions to Congress as to how to achieve judicial review. Others who testified, representing various civil liberties and legal organizations, likewise made suggestions for changing the proposed bill.

The bill as finally passed by the Senate took into account the many suggestions made to the subcommittee, and is a substitute for the original proposal.

If enacted into law as it now stands the bill would allow constitutional tests under the religion clauses of the First Amendment grants and loans under the following: (1) The Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, (2) Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, (3) The National Defense Education Act of 1958, (4) The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963, (5) Title II of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, Eighty-first Congress), (6) The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, (7) The Cooperative Research Act, (8) The Higher Education Act of 1965, and (9) The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

During debate on the Senate floor, Sen. Erwin said: "Some of us who are sponsors of this bill feel there are serious doubts as to the constitutionality of many recent education and poverty programs. Others are confident that these programs meet the test of the First Amendment. But one thing on which we all agree: the courts must be given the opportunity to decide. Only then will this century-long controversy end."

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Business Manger Named  
At Midwestern Seminary

8/8/66

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Kenneth Kerr, a Kansas City accountant, has been elected business manager of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, the seminary's president, Millard J. Berquist, has announced.

Kerr for the past five years has been auditor and accountant for International Paper, Co., Kansas City, and for 14 years previously was auditor and chief accountant for Interstate Securities here.

He succeeds Eugene C. Bryant, who had held the position since the founding of the seminary in 1957. Bryant resigned Aug. 1 to become special assistant to the chancellor for institutional research studies at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

A native of Kansas and a graduate in business administration from the University of Kansas, Kerr is a deacon at First Baptist Church of North Kansas City, serving as chairman for 9 of his 12 years as a deacon. He and his wife have two daughters.

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Missionaries Reflect  
Quality of Churches

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The quality of missionaries both at home and abroad reflects the quality of the churches from which they come, a leading Southern Baptist missions executive said here.

"The availability of money and missionary volunteers is determined by the depth of concern on the part of our churches," said Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Speaking before more than 2,000 persons in Glorieta Baptist Assembly's new auditorium, Rutledge said Christians cannot afford to rest easy on the basis of encouraging church membership statistics, which report 63 per cent of the U. S. population claiming membership in some religious body.

Forty-five per cent of the 70 million people who are church members "attend church no oftener than once a month," Rutledge said, "and many of these never attend at all."

There are about 70 million people--more than the population of all the states west of Texas--still without Christ, he said.

"I do not want to equate church attendance with a vital Christian experience," Rutledge said.

"But I have a deep conviction that men and women, young people and children who do not go to church are not going to read the Bible much, are not going to have a deep spiritual life, and they are going to formulate their philosophy of life without the influence of the Bible, without the influence of the church, without the influence of Jesus Christ."

"All this goes to say that we who are deeply concerned about God and his will and his work are in the minority even in the U.S.--a nation that stands in deep need of Christ," Rutledge said.

Citing Baptist missionary personnel needs in the United States for the year ahead, Rutledge said 60 couples are needed for language missions efforts among Spanish-speaking, Slavic peoples, Indians, and many others; 250 mission pastors are needed for Baptist pioneer areas such as New York and New Jersey; 15 couples and 12 single women are needed for areas of Christian social ministries, such as mission centers, migrant missions, literacy programs, and nursing opportunities.

About 2,400 people were on the assembly grounds for SBC Home Missions Week, which featured special conferences for Baptist men and sessions in specific areas of missions opportunity, such as juvenile rehabilitation, language missions, and establishing new churches.

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Missionary Educators  
Named Visiting Profs

8/8/66

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary educators serving in Thailand and in Brazil will be visiting professors at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here during the coming academic year.

Glenn Morris, president of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Bangkok, Thailand, since 1952, will be the visiting professor of missions. He served in a similar capacity at Midwestern while on furlough in 1961-62.

Kenneth R. Wolfe, on furlough from his teaching position with the Baptist Theological Seminary, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will be instructor in Hebrew.

Morris, a native of Georgia and former pastor there, served as a teacher at the Baptist seminary in Shanghai until 1951 when he was forced to leave "by the Communists."

He is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He earned the doctor of theology degree from Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Wolfe, a native of Kansas and former pastor in that state and in Missouri, has been a SBC missionary since 1961.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and earned the doctor of theology degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kan.

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Keith Returns As News  
Director For Seminary

FORT WORTH (BP)--Billy Keith, a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, has been named news director at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the second time.

Keith, on furlough from Japan for one year, was news director at Southwestern from 1958 to 1961. He returns to the position Sept. 1.

He and his wife have been serving with the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Japan for the past five years, including three years in the city of Sapporo on Japan's northern-most island, Hokkaido.

A native of Tahlequah, Okla., Keith is a graduate of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., and Southwestern Seminary here. While in the seminary, he was also pastor of First Baptist Church, Canadian, Okla.

Keith has been active in radio and television work in Asia and has conducted his own program in Sapporo for two years. He compiled a book of missionary sermons entitled, *As Ye Go, Preach*; and has written and published a book on the Japan Baptist New Life Movement, an evangelistic crusade in 1963, entitled "Shinsei."

During the crusade, Keith served in the area of public relations and was in charge of the press room. He was also editor of "The New Life Magazine," a periodical published during the crusade.

Keith and his wife, the former Mona Pigg of Edinburg, Tex., have two children, Tara Lu and Kimberly.

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Baylor Names Two  
To Religion Posts

8/8/66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Martus Miley, a Baylor University graduate student, has been named assistant director of religious activities at Baylor University, a Baptist school here.

Miley, who is working on his master's degree in religion, will succeed Raymond Vickery, new assistant director of the Baylor Ex-Student's Association.

A native of Arkansas, Miley's father is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.

Ken McNeil of Lubbock, Tex., was also named graduate assistant in the office of religious activities at Baylor. McNeil is doing graduate work toward a master's degree in sociology, and is a former Baptist Student Union president at Baylor.

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