

August 1, 1949

PREACHING LAWYER BECOMES EVANGELIST

Texts instead of briefs, decisions for Christ instead of judgments in court, are now the consuming interest of Clifton W. Brannon, Longview, Texas, attorney.

He has severed a very profitable business and professional connection to enter the field of full-time evangelism. He has been secretary and general counsel for R. G. LeTourneau, Inc., and affiliated firms.

Relating how energy and need had driven him at an early age to the peak of a lawyer's ambition -- practice before the Supreme Court of the United States -- Clif Brannon asserted: "When at the close of my message at Elk City, Okla., last Sunday, two strapping big men, among others, came to accept Christ, I got a bigger thrill than when I first stood before the nine solemn men of the Supreme Court."

Brannon, now first vice-president of the Baptist Brotherhood of Texas, has spoken in over 300 churches since 1946. During the last 12 months, he has addressed 226 church groups. The heavy schedule of church engagements in addition to his professional duties led to such physical strain he had to drop one or the other. He chose religion.

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SOUTHERN BAPTISTS REPORT TEN PER CENT GAIN IN MISSION GIFTS

A ten per cent gain in mission gifts the first six months of 1949, as compared with the same period in 1948, has been reported by Duke K. McCall, executive secretary and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The first-half total for 1949 is \$5,847,899.81, Dr. McCall said. Of this amount, \$3,154,081 was through the denomination's general Cooperative Program and the remainder was designated to particular mission objects.

Receipts for the first six months of 1948 showed a 23 per cent increase over the same period in 1947, Dr. McCall said.

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A Baptist minister, Dr. John H. Buchanan of Birmingham, has been named chairman of a committee of 500 to combat mob violence by masked bands in the Birmingham, Ala., area.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has been advised that two of its educational properties in China -- the University of Shanghai and Soochow Baptist School -- have been taken over by the Chinese Communists.

Two educators making a three year study of child rearing have counted 18,121 satisfactions, as contrasted with only 7,654 headaches, to be found in the rearing of children, reports Southern Baptists' Survey Bulletin.

Albert McClellan, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, has accepted the post of publicity director of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. He succeeds C. E. Bryant, who is now director of press relations at Baylor University.

A 79-year-old Texas rancher, Arthur L. Wasson, has given \$500,000 in New Mexico lands to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The land will be sold and the fund used basically for Christian education.

When Rev. E. J. Rogers retired from the pastorate of a Kansas City Baptist church after 29 years of service, members of the congregation took up a purse for him. They designated the fund for the fulfillment of his life-time dream, a trip to the Holy Land.

C. E. Bryant
Baptist Press
Nashville, Tennessee

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NORTHERN BAPTISTS ALSO FACE
CONVENTION EXPENSE PROBLEM

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.--(BP)--Northern Baptists in California have been urged to contribute \$1 "sponsor memberships" to help underwrite entertainment expenses for the Northern Baptist Convention in San Francisco this spring.

The Convention will open May 30 and will have as its theme, "Your Reasonable Service."

(Southern Baptists, also facing tremendous expense in the holding of their annual Convention, will decide at the Convention's May meeting in Oklahoma City whether to charge a \$1 registration fee for messengers.)

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AMERICANS HELP EUROPEAN
YOUTH ATTEND BAPTIST CONGRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The gifts of American college students and interested adults will enable many penniless European youth to attend sessions of the World Baptist Youth Congress in Stockholm, August 3-9.

Even though a European city was chosen as the meeting place of the Congress for the express purpose of enabling European youth to attend, Dr. Joel Sorenson has reported from Stockholm that post-war economic difficulties will make impossible the attendance of more than a handful from Central Europe.

William Hall Preston, Southern Baptist youth leader here, learned of the difficulty and obtained Sorenson's estimate that expenses of European youth to the Congress would average about \$80. Simply by personal contacts Preston has spread the word, and contributions have started coming in. Many are from individuals, and in several cases church groups have made contributions.

Four thousand young people are expected at the Congress, and it is estimated that approximately 500 will represent the Southern Baptist Convention area.

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