

August 16, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ASSEMBLY HAD RECORD ATTENDANCE OF 15,739

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--A check-up here this week reveals that Falls Creek Baptist Assembly, a youth camp held annually in Oklahoma's Arbuckle Mountains the first ten days in August, enrolled a record attendance this year of 15,739. Two-thirds of those present were camped on the grounds in special local church-owned cabins and in tents. There was not a single serious accident.

The principle speaker for the assembly was Dr. Charles Forbes Taylor, who spoke morning and evening for the ten days to audiences that averaged nine thousand.

The Falls Creek property, estimated to be the largest of its kind in the world, is jointly owned by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the local Baptist congregations of Oklahoma. There are 350 permanent buildings ranging in size from tiny four-bunk cabins to the giant tabernacle that will seat 6400 people. Largest cabin on the grounds is a modern rock building to accommodate 150 and costing \$40,000. It has recently been completed by the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City. Total value of the Falls Creek property has been set at \$1,300,000.

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HAYLOFT BECOMES "UPPER ROOM" FOR BAPTIST REVIVAL SERVICES

CENTERVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Local Baptists found a different kind of an "Upper Room." They took over the hayloft of a giant hill-side barn for a week of revival services.

Faced with the problem of getting their message out to rural members the congregation, led by the Rev. Harry L. Winters, decided to divide their usual summer meeting into two parts, one to be held in town, the other in the country after a week's rest. So they borrowed a giant stock barn from Farmer B. Cordell Baker, pushed back the machinery to walls, outfitted the loft with chairs, electric lights, and exhaust fans, and moved in a piano. For a pulpit they up-ended a 55-gallon oil drum.

All the extra work paid off. The meeting was very successful with over 200 attending a single service on the final Sunday.

Only drawback was the tin roof. When it rained nobody could hear the minister. The minister could not even hear himself.

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POWER OF PRAYER SEEN
AS TOWN IS TRANSFORMED

OCEAN SPRINGS, Fla.--(BP)--This small city of 300 people has for the past 15 months witnessed an unusual transformation of some of the town's worst people, all because of the influence of a tiny prayer room set up for men and boys only in the First Baptist Church.

The prayer room had its beginning on Saturday night, April 17, 1948, when six men met to pray for the auditorium dedication services to be held next day. So great was the power growing out of the prayer service that on every Saturday since there has been an average attendance of 18 men and boys.

Proof of the importance of the prayer room to the life of the church is seen in the following developments: (1) after a special all night of prayer in this room 107 men, women, and children made decisions for Christ in one service; (2) records show that during January of this year a total of 513 people entered for prayer -- the smallest number ever to come on any one day was six and the largest was fifty-six; (3) due to the direct influence of this prayer room six young men have been licensed to the ministry, five of whom have been ordained; (4) so great has been the influence of the prayer room on the town that one authority is reported to have said, "This was the driest, quietest, and most sober Christmas in the history of Ocean Springs."

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MISSION TOURS HELP
TOWARD WORLD PEACE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--American churches can contribute to world peace by organizing mission tours to European countries, according to William Hall Preston, associate secretary of the Southern Baptist Student Union, who has just returned to the United States from a Baptist student mission tour that included ten European countries.

Preston said, "Hunger for world fellowship among the Christian youth of those countries impressed me greatly." He gave as an example of this attitude a number of German people who slipped through the iron curtain of the Western Zone to attend the meetings and sacred concerts presented by twenty voices of Preston's party.

"There is a far greater enthusiasm for Christianity and a desire to know us better than I expected to find in those countries," Preston said. "Several of the young students who made the tour have announced their intention to return to Europe as missionaries when they finish college."

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FELLOWSHIP LEADS TO FRIENDSHIP
AT THIRD BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS

STOCKHOLM--(BP)--"I have friends over here now" is the way a South Carolina student summarized his week of fellowship with 1300 Baptist young people and their leaders from 25 countries meeting in the third Baptist World Congress, August 3-9.

The South Carolina student who had visited ten countries en route to the Congress was reflecting an appeal made by Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, executive-secretary of the Baptist World Alliance when he told the young people in an address, "Our job is to create and sustain a world consciousness among Baptists." Baptists endeavored to help fulfill the need for international friendship and world consciousness by providing the young people with opportunities to visit in their homes and to participate in their social gatherings and worship.

Delegates from the distressed areas of the world who received special consideration at the Congress included Dr. David B. S. Chu, the only representative of China's millions; Wasili Schachow, a Ukranian, who spoke for the 5000 displaced Baptists in Europe today; and a lone young man from Portugal who arrived in the middle of the congress to receive one of its greatest moments of spontaneous applause.

On summarizing the nature of Baptist world fellowship, Joel Sorenson, youth secretary for the Baptist World Alliance, reminded the young people that even though Baptist youth in Spain and other parts of the world were not allowed to attend they were nevertheless a real part of the Baptist world fellowship.

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BARDEN BILL IS POLITICAL,
NOT RELIGIOUS, SAYS EDITOR

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--The Barden bill for federal assistance to public education is a political question which the Catholic hierarchy has made to appear to be a religious question, declared Dr. B. H. Duncan, editor of the Arkansas Baptist, in a special letter addressed to the Arkansas congressional delegation in Washington.

He also said, "Attention has been diverted from the real issue, and the merits of legislative proposals for federal aid to education have been smothered by bitterness and highly emotional controversy. If the issue can be kept on a political basis where it belongs, it can be discussed and adjudged in its proper light and perspective."

The Arkansas editor closed his letter by pointing out to the legislators what he called their serious responsibility: (1) to protect the public school system of America which is the basis of our American democratic system, (2) to protect the public treasury from religious bodies which are seeking support for their sectarian teachings out of the public treasury.

The men addressed in the letter were Senators J. W. Fulbright and John L. McClellan and Representatives E. C. Gathings, Wilbur D. Mills, Brooks Hays, W. F. Norrell, Boyd Tackett, J. W. Trimble, and Oren Harris.