



May 1, 1967

Masonic-Baptist Work ²⁸⁵
In Church-State Gains

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By Bert Tucker

WACO, Tex. (BP)--A centennial celebration of Freemasonry in Texas is marking, too, an advance in church-state studies which may have Southern Baptist Convention-wide effect.

While many individual Baptists are Masons, the denomination entered into the picture through the Scottish Rite's contributions which have established a major center of church and state studies at Baylor University, a Baptist school here.

The program is the only one in the nation financed by Freemasonry and Baylor is the only Baptist school in the U.S. offering degree-level studies in the field of church and state.

As a result, future developments concerning court rulings and public practices in such church-state areas as taxes, oaths, inscriptions, prayers, loans, and education are expected to be influenced by the research and discoveries of the Baptist school.

Parallels in the growth of Freemasonry and the Baylor church-state studies were highlighted in a luncheon on the Waco campus recently. Occasion was the tenth anniversary of the founding of Baylor's J. M. Dawson Studies in Church and State.

The studies were established a decade ago largely through an annual pledge of support by the Masons and named in honor of Joseph Martin Dawson, a Baylor alumnus, veteran Baptist pastor and preacher, the first executive director of the respected Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and a noted author on the separation of church and state.

The studies currently constitute both an under-graduate and graduate school program.

Scottish Rite Masonry was lauded at the luncheon "for its significant contribution of \$50,000 in these 10 years for carrying on this unique program at Baylor University." James E. Wood Jr., director of the church-state studies, expressed appreciation for the Masonic support.

Price Daniel, former Texas governor for three terms, advised approximately 300 Masonry leaders and Baptist quests of possible upcoming legal activities in church and state.

Known for their attention to the lines of separation, Masons and Baptists will be looking at developments underway touching prayer in legislatures and high courts, church taxes, sworn oaths which contain the word "God," tax deductions for contributions to churches, legality of government chaplains in the armed forces and Washington legislative chambers and Bible reading, Daniel said.

"This is why we must continue our studies. We must remain alert and oppose those who would breach the wall between church and state," the ex-U.S. senator declared.

Daniel called on the Masons to make a major emphasis in their 1967 centennial on the financial support of the J. M. Dawson Studies.

During the luncheon program, Kenneth Wells, president of the national patriotic organization, Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., presented a plaque of accomplishment to Lee Lockwood of Waco, grand chancellor of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

An overriding theme in talk of the J. M. Dawson studies is the belief of leaders that when progress is made in the defense of church and state, among the major defenders will be former participants in the Baylor program.

If enrollment is an indication, other denominations may share the same view, in that students have included Presbyterians, Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Disciples of Christ, Lutherans, Mennonites and others.



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May 1, 1967

Ohio Crusade Seeks
90,000 Unchurched

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DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--About 1,500 Southern Baptist canvassers have surveyed an estimated three-fourths of the one million people in the Dayton metropolitan area in preparation for an evangelism in-depth crusade in July.

"About 90,000 unchurched individuals were located, and this is a conservative estimate," said William A. Powell of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, who directed the survey.

During the intensive four-day survey, the 1,500 volunteers telephoned about 225,000 families in the greater Dayton area.

Nearly 10,000 of the 225,000 canvassed had no church connection or preference. Another 20,000 included individuals who expressed some preference, but were considered by the surveyors to be "unchurched" families.

Only 5.1 per cent of the families contacted refused to give information about the religious status of the family, said Don Upp, minister of education for First Baptist Church, Kittering, Ohio, who was chairman of the survey committee.

Upp said that 16,603 of the more than 30,000 who had no church connection or preference or who did not attend any church as often as once a month, were considered "prime prospects" for Southern Baptists.

Powell said that the survey, from the standpoint of participation was the best he ever directed.

"This survey is the high water mark in my experience," Powell said. "Selection of individuals in the survey sample was not biased in any way--race, color or creed."

Powell praised the 76 Southern Baptist churches in the Dayton area for enlisting 13.2 per cent of their members for the survey effort.

A total of about 1,500 Baptist volunteer workers manned the telephones and another 1,000 recorded and tabulated the responses.

The workers were trained in 64 class sessions held in 16 different churches and conducted by eight regional missionaries from other states in the Southern Baptist Convention.

As a follow-up to the survey, local volunteers plan to distribute Gospels of John to at least 200,000 families, reinforcing the distribution of brief testimonies.

A central stadium revival is scheduled for July 16-22, with W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, scheduled to preach.

The Dayton area Baptist churches have scheduled simultaneous revivals July 23-30, with Texas Baptist preachers, music directors and choirs--volunteers expecting no honorarium--assigned to each church.

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio is being assisted in the Dayton New Life Crusade by the Baptist General Convention of Texas evangelism division, and by the SBC Home Mission Board.

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Ohio Convention President
Accepts State Mission Post

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CINCINNATI, Ohio (BP)--Orville D. Griffin, pastor of the East Dayton Baptist Church and president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, has accepted a post as superintendent of missions in the Greater Cincinnati and Southern Hills Baptist Association in the state, effective June 1.

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Griffin is the only pastor the 800-member Dayton church has had. He led the church from mission status 12 years ago to its present membership with more than \$250,000 worth of property.

He came to Ohio in 1954 while a student at Georgetown College, (Baptist) Georgetown, Ky.

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Alaska Pastor's Wife,
Children Victims of Fire

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JUNEAU, Alaska (BP)--Tragedy has struck the family of a Southern Baptist pastor here, when a fire killed his wife and two children.

Mrs. Joe (Minah) Patterson, 35, wife of the pastor of First Baptist Church in Juneau, and two of their four children were victims of the fire that destroyed their home.

Cause of the fire is still unknown. It is believed that it may have been caused by the furnace.

Patterson was away from home at the time of the fire attending a meeting.

The last time Mrs. Patterson was seen was when she threw the baby, Stewart, from an upstairs window to a neighbor below. The neighbor then placed a ladder up to the window and reached Susan (one of 13-year-old twin girls) who was overcome by smoke, and pulled her out to safety.

Sarah, the other twin, and Mark 7, were victims of the fire.

Mrs. Patterson is the former Minah Thurman, a native of Sonora, Ky.

The Pattersons went to the First Baptist Church in Juneau in 1964 from Linden, Ala, where he was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Linden.

Funeral services were held in the Northern Presbyterian Church here on April 28, and burial will be in Dothan, Ala., on Tuesday, May 2.

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Joan Harvison Named
To Oklahoma PR Post

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Joan Harvison, public relations assistant for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma here, has been named director of communications for the state Baptist convention.

Miss Harvison succeeds Floyd A. Craig, who resigned recently to become director of public relations for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville.

She will be in charge of press relations for state-wide Baptist activities, and for production of materials for radio and television broadcasting. She will also direct production of printed materials handled through the convention's public relations department.

A native of Mobile, Ala., Miss Harvison is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. She also has studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas. She is a former art teacher in the Dallas public schools system.

While a student at Southwestern Seminary, she was assistant editor of Southwestern News, monthly alumni publication of the school.

She was listed in the 1966 edition of "Outstanding Young Women of America" and has won a number of awards for news and feature writing.

Miss Harvison is newsletter editor for the Baptist Public Relations Association, an organization of public relations specialists for Southern Baptist agencies, institutions, and state conventions.

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Mississippi Pastor Says
Preachers Called Pathetic

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A Mississippi Baptist pastor said here that many people today are calling the preacher "a pathetic figure, an anachronism, a joke, a barnacle on society."

Wyatt R. Hunter, pastor of the First Baptist Church of McComb, Miss., said during the annual Layne Foundation Lectures at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, that all too many people in society today simply ignore the preacher or are unaware of his existence.

Hunter declared that preaching, however, is indispensable, for it originated in the purpose of God to meet the needs of a degenerate humanity.

"The end result of preaching is to change men's lives through the Christian message of faith and hope," Hunter said.

"We must preach to the mind of today," he declared. "Much of our preaching has been detached from their needs and has lacked relevance."

"The preacher must preach a sermon that is practical, living, urgent and close to life," he added. "We must concern ourselves with the needs of men, the social order about them, wrongs that need to be righted, injustices, prejudices, and tyrannies."

Hunter has been pastor of the Baptist church in McComb since 1938. Subject of his three-day lecture series was "Effective Preaching from Pastoral Experience."

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Columbus Book Store
Robbed By Lone Gunman

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--The Baptist Book Store here was robbed of \$91 when a lone gunman held up the saleslady and fled across the store's rear parking lot.

Mrs. Catherine Boling, sales clerk at the store, was alone in the salesroom when a young Negro man entered just after lunch and purchased a paperback copy of Ben Hur.

While Mrs. Boling was packaging the book, the robber suddenly brandished a small caliber pistol and demanded the money in the cash register.

He fled with the \$91, leaving his purchase on the counter and the saleslady trembling but unharmed.

Miss Myrtle Anderson, Book Store manager, was in Michigan attending a Baptist meeting at the time of the robbery. Book Store personnel say it is the first holdup at the Columbus store, but that the store has been broken into several times previously.

The Book Store is located at 1680 E. Broad Street, next door to the Baptist Building housing offices of the Baptist State Convention of Ohio.

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Currin Elected Indiana
State Missions Secretary

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--James H. Currin, state Sunday School secretary for Indiana Baptists, was elected state missions secretary for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The Executive Board of the convention elected Currin to the position, promoting him after four years as Sunday School secretary for the convention.

Previously, he was pastor of churches in Indiana and Kentucky.

In his new responsibility, Currin will coordinate the establishment of new churches and mission posts in the state. He succeeds F. J. Redford who resigned in February to take a position with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The board set a goal of \$15,000 for the convention's 1967 annual state missions offering, to be used to develop a new Baptist encampment near Monrovia, Ind.

The board also approved the publishing of a history of the state convention, to coincide with its tenth anniversary in 1968. The book will be written by Alvin C. Shackleford editor of the Indiana Baptist, weekly state Baptist paper.

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