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July 3, 1967

Georgia Church Sponsors ⁵⁹²
School For Retarded Kids

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By Bert O. Tucker
Associate Editor, The Christian Index

SANDY SPRINGS, Ga. (BP)--Proposals from speakers at the Southern Baptist Convention recently urging churches into community missions projects have received a response from the First Baptist Church, Sandy Springs, believed to be the first church in Georgia to open a school for retarded children.

Community involvement was the key to success in the venture, explained associate pastor George Reno, who said that the school would have been ineffective on any basis other than community-wide.

Mr. and Mrs. Reno served as directors of the week-long morning and afternoon program of instruction and activities. Approximately 25 children and a faculty of the same number were enrolled.

The one-to-one pupil and worker ratio was achieved by drawing volunteers from all areas of the community, Reno said.

The tightly-programmed schedule was built around the theme, "God Loves Me," featuring activity and group learning, individual instruction, recreation and worship.

Reno said that the theme also had a meaningful message for the parents who brought retarded children to the school.

"We were amazed at the response after announcing plans for the school week. Parents throughout the area called to assure places for their children," he said.

"We structured this week's school for children ages 3½ through 12 years, but the demand has been such that it looks like we'll go ahead with a week's school later this summer for teenagers," Reno added.

No qualifications were required for the volunteer workers, Reno said when asked about the difficulty of faculty recruitment.

"These Junior Woman's Club, Sunday School, Girl Scout, and other workers have a deep love for children and they have volunteered their services. That's enough to qualify," he said.

The Renos described the school as a pilot project, and said another is being planned for the summer of 1968.

"We are hoping other churches might see the ripe fields in this neglected ministry and consider such a program themselves," Mrs. Reno said.

The highest motive--a love for children, should be the springboard for church leaders to offer a school, they said.

And the Renos should know. They are parents of a retarded child.

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Giddens Named Religion Prof ⁵⁹³

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MACON, Ga. (BP)--Howard P. Giddens, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Athens, Ga., for almost 18 years, has been named professor of religion at Mercer University (Baptist) here, effective Aug. 6.

Giddens, a former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, is a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and former member of the SBC Foreign Mission Board. He is a graduate of Mercer and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville with a doctor of theology degree.

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Ridgecrest Manager
To Retire in October

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Willard K. Weeks, manager of Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in Ridgecrest, N.C., will retire after 17 years in the position effective Oct. 31, Hubert Smothers, director of the services division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, has announced.

Known as "Daddy Weeks" to almost 7,000 summer staff members who have worked with him since 1950, Weeks has a reputation for continuing interest in the staffers and for carrying candy bars which he gives away at almost any excuse.

During his 17 years as manager, the Southern Baptist Convention assembly has grown from 1,200 to 2,400 acres; the annual attendance has increased from 21,477 in 1950 to 36,309 last year, and the property value has increased from \$795,000 to nearly \$4 million.

Before assuming the assembly managership, Weeks was pastor's associate at Second Baptist Church, Houston, and president of the Texas Baptist encampment at Palacios, Tex. Earlier he was for 27 years pastor's assistant, financial secretary and educational director at Baptist churches in St. Petersburg and Jacksonville, Fla.

Smothers said Week's successor would be nominated at a meeting of the Sunday School Board, July 26-27, at Ridgecrest.

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Glorieta YWA Conference
To Spotlight World Issues

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Speakers and conference leaders at the Young Woman's Auxiliary (YWA) Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here will bring Baptist girls face to face with such world issues as race relations, war and peace, moral problems, and how to make decisions about these issues.

The annual conference, July 27-Aug. 2, will help girls make a Christian response to problems, according to Miss Betty Bock, YWA director for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham. YWA is a missions organization for single girls, ages 16-24.

Speakers will be Jimmy R. Allen, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; and Clyde Fant Jr., professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

In daily talks, Allen will discuss issues such as race relations, war, and moral problems. One address will help young women learn how to make decisions about issues.

Fant will encourage conferees to examine their beliefs about God, themselves, the world situation, and their relationship to God.

Music director will be Dr. Claude Rhea, music consultant for the Foreign Mission Board.

Dramatic meditations will be staged by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Satterfield, First Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex.

YWA members will also train for mission action, the new WMU approach to community ministry and witness, in workshops during the conference, said Miss Bock.

Workshop sessions will be offered in training YWA workers with language groups, ministering to the economically disadvantaged, ministering to sick persons, working with internationals, juvenile rehabilitation ministries, and conducting Vacation Bible Schools.

During informal dialogue sessions, conferees can quiz speakers, missionary personnel officials from the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards, and youth counselors.

Missionaries speaking in general sessions and to small groups will include Dr. Kathleen Jones, Indonesia; Dr. Bryant Hicks, Philippines; Bertha Jane Marshall, Japan; Marjorie Stephens, Nigeria.

Others include Ann Wollerman, Brazil; Dr. Ruth Roper, Jordan; Lou Ellen Coffey, Gaza; Mike Lopez, Santa Fe, N.M.; Linda Linzy, Granite City, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Combs; Miss Frisby, Jones, and Eva Marie Kennard.

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Baker Named PR Director
For North Carolina Homes

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THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Eugene W. Baker, minister of education at Handley Baptist Church in Fort Worth, has been named director of public relations for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

Baker is a former news director for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he received the master of religious education degree and two years toward a doctor of education degree.

A former public relations officer for the U.S. Air Force, Baker is also a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., with bachelor and master of arts degrees.

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Texas Sunday School
Head Takes Church Post

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DALLAS (BP)--William R. Bumpas, secretary of the Sunday School department for the Baptist General Convention of Texas for the past seven years, has been named minister of activities for the First Baptist Church of Midland, Tex., effective Aug. 1.

Bumpas, 59, will return to the same position he held seven years ago at the 5,500-member Midland church before joining state-wide Sunday School position.

Convention leaders had high praise for his denominational leadership, calling it "outstanding". They noted his return to a prior ministry as a "tribute to his ability and vocation."

The state Baptist denominational leader will be responsible for educational programming as well as church administration, said L. L. Morriss, pastor of Midland's First Baptist Church. Morriss was pastor of the West Texas church during Bumpas' prior tenure of service from 1958 to 1960.

The Dallas native has been educational director at Baptist Churches in Fort Worth and Waco, Tex., and Oklahoma and Arkansas. He attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas and is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

As Sunday School secretary, Bumpas has been responsible for coordinating and promoting state-wide Sunday School activities of nearly 1.2 million Sunday School members in nearly 4,000 Baptist churches in Texas.

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Herndon Named Mountain
Minister of The Year

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PINEVILLE, Ky. (BP)--L. G. Herndon of Honaker, Va. received the A. S. Petrey award as "Mountain Minister of the Year" at Clear Creek Baptist School here.

Herndon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Honaker, was presented a plaque and citation by D. M. Aldridge, Clear Creek president.

The annual award is named in honor of the late A. S. Petrey, a Baptist pioneer mountain missionary in Eastern Kentucky. Candidates are recommended by executive secretaries of the mountain states in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The citation noted that Herndon had led the church to state and regional recognition of its growth in membership, church plant, organization and giving.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

Baptist Press will carry an interpretive wrapup of the Concept of the Believers' Church in Louisville written by W. Barry Garrett of the Washington Baptist Press Regional Office. The story will be mailed to you Wednesday, July 5. Happy holiday.

--Baptist Press

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