

September 16, 1949

"JANITOR EMERITUS" AND HALF-PAY IS REWARD FOR 36 YEARS SERVICE

SHREVEPORT, La.--(BP)--Robert Johnson, janitor for the First Baptist Church here for 36 years has been retired on half-pay with the title, "Janitor Emeritus," according to Dr. M. E. Dodd, pastor.

The church published the following statement in connection with the action: "Robert Johnson, janitor, caretaker, pastor's assistant, and everybody's friend at First Baptist Church from February 1913 to June 1949, is now retired on half salary as 'Janitor Emeritus,' being the first, so far as we know, among Southern Baptists."

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PASTOR FILLS THE PULPIT; LAYMEN FILL THE PEWS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Baptist laymen of the South will observe Layman's Day, October 9 with the theme, "Let the Pastor Fill the Pulpit While the Laymen Fill the Pews," according to Dr. Lawson H. Cooke, secretary of the Baptist Brotherhood of the South.

Mr. Cooke recommends the following steps necessary to the proper observation of the service: (1) widest publicity, (2) letter from the pastor to the membership, (3) special music by men's groups, and (4) a special man-centered program.

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SEMINARY EXTENSION CLASS FOR NEGROES ORGANIZED

FORT-SMITH, Ark.--(BP)--A seminary extension class for Negro pastors in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma has been organized here according to Dr. Braxton B. Sawyer, pastor, First Baptist Church (white). The class will serve as an arm of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, Tenn. Credits earned will apply toward a degree. Class will meet Tuesday and Thursday nights during the winter months.

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**MORE THAN HALF OPEN COUNTRY CHURCHES
SPEND LESS THAN \$1000 ON LOCAL WORK**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—More than half of the 13,399 open country churches in the Southern Baptist Convention spend less than \$1000 on all of their local work, including the pastor's salary, according to a report released this week by Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"The size of the local budget can never measure the work of the church," Routh said, "but a study of this kind does point up some of the problems faced by some rural churches in maintaining a full-time ministry, and demonstrates the need for an aggressive state mission program to serve these churches."

Of the 13,399 churches located in the open country, only 754 or 5.6 per cent have a local budget of more than \$5000. The report shows that 544 open country churches have a budget of less than \$100; 838 are in the \$100-\$199 range; 916 in the \$200-\$299 range; 988 in the \$300-\$399 range; and 886 in the \$400-\$499 range. A total of 7422 have a local budget of less than \$1000.

Only one open country church in the Southern Baptist Convention had a local budget as high as \$30,000.

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**PROFESSOR URGES COMPULSORY CHAPEL
SERVICES IN CHURCH-RELATED COLLEGES**

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.—(BP)—Dr. Arnold S. Nash, chairman of the Department of Religion at the University of North Carolina, declares that "compulsory chapel services should be held by all church colleges."

In explaining the basis for this statement Dr. Nash said, "The essential point I was trying to make was that the church-related college should stand by its principles. No educational institution, I argued, that is really worth its salt entertains the idea of optional examinations, i.e., if we interpret the word examination sufficiently widely to indicate means according to which the abilities of students can be estimated.

"If a church-related college feels (and most of them do) that examinations are sufficiently important to be compulsory, then I do not see why religious services should not be compulsory. If they are made optional, then that is equivalent to saying that the college authorities do not regard them, as they do examinations, as being really important.

"In other words, if a church-related college were to make both attendance at examinations and attendance at college services optional, then such a college would be saying that both examinations and services are equally important."

STATES ORGANIZE FOR 1950
SIMULTANEOUS REVIVALS

DALLAS, Texas--(BP)--Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are nearly 100 per cent complete in the organization of their associations for the 1950 simultaneous crusade in states west of the Mississippi River, according to E. Powell Lee, director of the crusade organization. The other nine states will be complete in forty days.

The organization needed in each of the 840 participating associations are the associational organizer, general chairman, and a steering committee consisting of (1) chairman of finance, (2) publicity chairman, (3) radio chairman, (4) fellowship chairman, (5) extension committee chairman, (6) census chairman, (7) special rallies chairman, and (8) prayer chairman.

All Negro conventions west of the river will also participate, Dr. Lee said. Word has been received by Dr. C. E. Matthews, superintendent of Southwide evangelism, from Dr. E. W. Perry, prominent national colored Baptist leader, that not only will they participate in 1950 but also in 1951 when the crusade will be conducted east of the river.

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DR. RANKIN URGES GLOBAL THINKING

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.--(BP)--Dr. M. Theron Rankin, secretary of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, recently spent two days in the San Francisco Bay area visiting the 60 Southern Baptist churches and mission points and speaking at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

In a special missionary rally at the seminary, Dr. Rankin reminded the pastors, "Southern Baptists need to think in terms of the global dimensions we undertook in World War II."

Commenting on the missionary spirit and progress of Southern Baptists in California, Dr. Rankin said that his tour of churches and mission points in the San Francisco Bay area gave him the same uplift that he recently experienced in Hawaii, and in other foreign fields where we carry the message of Christ and establish new work.

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