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Recreation Revival Nets
Church Nine Additions

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IRONDALE, ALA. (BP)--Having fun may not be considered an evangelistic ministry of the church, but First Baptist Church of Irondale, Ala., successfully proved otherwise.

"We are never to change the message of the gospel," said George B. Slater, pastor of the church, "but we are at liberty, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to change the methods and to use new methods of proclaiming the good news."

The "new method" used by the church was simply having fun, organized into a recreation revival. The results were nine additions to the church and 42 other Christian commitments.

The idea for the revival originated when one of the church's 1,000 members attended a district church recreation clinic. The clinic was sponsored by the church recreation department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The plan for a series of meetings presenting the gospel through drama and recreation was put before the church staff and they adopted it.

Cecil McGee, church recreation consultant at the Sunday School Board, led the effort.

The title "Revival and Recreation Retreat" was given the effort because the meetings took the place of the annual youth retreat.

Slater said much of the success of the week came because all church members took part.

"Juniors made puppets...young people were used to present gospel in drama, testimonies and songs, and adults were used to proclaim the word in drama," he said.

"In some services McGee used the time honored method of preaching," he added. Whether the service was one of drama or testimony, the pastor said, individuals were asked to commit their all to Christ.

"One complete service in the revival was conducted in the dining room. Members were asked to bring prospects and enough food for the prospects they brought. This was an effective service which magnified the Lord and his church," the pastor said.

Fellowships followed all services, one featuring a cake baking contest between the deacons and male members of the church staff.

Slater said the revival was one of the most effective he'd witnessed in over 30 years in the ministry. He said it left the church "more like the early church described in Acts than any revival we have ever had."

Bob Boyd, secretary of the Sunday School Board's church recreation department, said the week may be the first of its kind.

"While recreation has been used to help revival efforts, this is the first time a church has given an entire week to communicating the gospel through recreation activities," Boyd said.

Perhaps the best testimony was given by Slater when he said the week "impressed our church with the fact that Christians can have real fun in a clean, decent and Christian way."

Air Force Reverses Rule
About Religious Freedom

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A Seventh Day Adventist mess attendant at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, has been restored to her job after being fired for refusal to work on Saturday because of religious conviction, according to a report from the Senate subcommittee on constitutional rights here.

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A further result of the challenge to her dismissal is that the Air Force is drafting a new order to protect employees who observe a Sabbath other than Sunday.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N.C.) is chairman of the subcommittee.

The name of the person involved was withheld from the press "in order to protect her right to privacy," a staff member said.

The Seventh Day Adventist employee said that she had informed officials of her religious beliefs at the time she was hired. She said that she was told that she would not have to work on Saturdays.

She charged that when she did not report to work on Saturdays, she was given letters of reprimand, suspension and notice of termination.

On February 27, the commander of the 804th Service Squadron wrote her: "The assigned mission of the food services function at this base requires that duties are performed by attendants seven days per week and 24 hours per day. Unauthorized absence from scheduled duties is not valid and will not be condoned." She was then fired.

The employee filed a complaint of religious discrimination. On July 20 the Air Force Equal Employment Opportunity officer wrote her that on the basis of an independent review of the record he found that management "had not met its obligation" to her.

She was then reinstated without any disciplinary action resulting from her inability to work on Saturdays.

Senator Ervin, upon learning that the employee had been offered her job back, commented:

"I am pleased that the strategic Air Forces at the base will be able to perform their mission of defending the country even though they will have to do without the Saturday assistance of this mess attendant, employed at a salary level one step from the bottom rung of the whole federal bureaucracy."

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Southeastern Seminary
Lectureships Announced

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Eight prominent church leaders will deliver special lectures at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during the coming academic year, according to President Olin T. Binkley.

John Bright, noted scholar and the Cyrus H. McCormick Professor of Hebrew and the Interpretation of the Old Testament at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, will give the Fall Convocation Lectures, Sept. 28-29.

Archie L. Nations, associate professor of New Testament at Southeastern, will speak on Oct. 5. An authority on Coptic literature, he has served on the faculty of Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan.

Samuel Proctor, president of the Institute for Service to Education and former president of A & T College at Greensboro (N.C.), will give the missionary day address on Nov. 16. He has served as associate director of the Peace Corps and is the author of *The Young Negro in America*.

C. J. Jump Jr., general secretary for the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies, will lecture on Jan. 11. He has served as missionary in the Congo and remained there during the unrest after independence.

Max G. Rogers, associate professor of Old Testament at Southeastern, will give the Spring Convocation Lecture on Jan. 31. A native of Durham (N.C.), he has returned recently from a year of study and research in Europe.

S. L. Stealey, president emeritus of Southeastern Seminary, is scheduled to deliver the Founders' Day address on Feb. 15. Formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church, Raleigh (N.C.) and professor of church history at Southern Seminary, he edited *A Baptist Treasury*, a source-book of Baptist history.

Kenneth L. Chafin, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Baptist Seminary, will give the missionary day address on March 17. He has taught also at Southwestern Seminary as associate professor of evangelism.

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Martin E. Marty, associate professor of Modern Church History at the University of Chicago Divinity School and associate editor of The Christian Century, will give the Carver-Barnes Memorial Lectures, March 26-29. He is the author of nine books.

All lectures will be given at 10:00 a.m. in the seminary chapel and are open to the public.

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British Church To Get
SBC Extension Center

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CHICAGO (BP)--A Southern Baptist Convention seminary extension center providing adult education courses is scheduled to open this fall at the Sharpenhoe Baptist Church in Bedfordshire, England.

The Sharpenhoe Church is affiliated with the Chicago Southern Baptist Association, and is believed to be the only Southern Baptist in England. Howard A. Baldwin, pastor, formerly served a Southern Baptist Convention church in the Chicago area.

Baldwin made the request for the center for the benefit of nine men in the Bedfordshire church who are planning to enter a church-related vocation.

The request was sent to Preston N. Denton, Chicago superintendent of missions.

Ralph A. Herring, Nashville, Tennessee, is director of the SBC Seminary Extension Department.

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