



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

October 2, 1967

824

12,000 Georgians Affirm
"God Is Alive" At Rally

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593
DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

560

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP)--More than 12,000 people--the largest crowd ever assembled in Northeast Georgia--gathered here at a Baptist-sponsored rally to affirm that God is alive.

The crowd filled every bench, chair, hillside, and housetop around Gainesville City Park for the rally, which carried out the theme, "Affirmation: God Lives."

The rally was both inter-racial and inter-denominational.

Sponsored by the Chattahoochee Baptist Association, all denominations were invited to attend. Invitations were also given to every Negro church and Negro school in Hall County and several Negroes were present.

An 800-voice choir from 40 Baptist churches was led by Bob Haynes, minister of music at the First Baptist Church here. Guest soloist was baritone Frank Boggs of Atlanta.

Keynote speaker for the rally was H. Franklin Paschall, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville.

"In times like these, when the world is sick, it is a refreshing thing to see an entire community declare itself so wholesomely as believing in a living God," Paschall said.

"This assembly of people is the most inspiring community response to the Christian faith that I have seen in my entire life," said the Southern Baptist leader. "The impact of this rally will be felt in all the churches and throughout the community life for years to come."

The bulk of Paschall's message was devoted to the theme that an affirmation that God lives must be followed by action which supports that affirmation.

"If we do not translate our faith into action, we fail the God we profess to support," Paschall declared.

"For too long now, many of us have been content to say what we believe, not meaning to back it up with what we do," he said.

"What does it mean to affirm that God lives?" he asked. "It means missions," he answered.

"Missions is not a human strategy; it is a Divine plan, authenticated by God in the person of Jesus Christ."

Paschall closed with an affirmation that "God will not let His Son fail. In Christ, we cannot lose. We shall go on from faith to faith, grace to grace, glory to glory, until we have proclaimed to all nations that God lives and that His son, Jesus Christ, is our Savior and Lord."

Persons attending the rally joined in their own formal declaration of faith, in a response led by William F. Crowe, Chattahoochee Baptist associational missionary.

The declaration said in part: "We affirm our faith in the living God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father, and we witness to our faith in His eternal love... We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, who conquered sin and death, reconciled the world unto himself and who lives today in the lives of those who trust Him... We affirm our faith that the Bible is the inspired revelation of God, and that its teachings are of crucial importance and saving relevance in the lives of people in the twentieth century... We hereby affirm our faith that DOES live, and that Jesus Christ IS Lord. We now commit ourselves anew to the task of making the Christian faith a strong, living and vital force in the world today."

Laymen in Hall County Baptist churches did most of the planning and promotion for the meeting. More than 1,500 laymen assumed tasks in planning and promotion. Sixty laymen underwrote a \$10,000 budget.

General chairman was James E. Mathis, a deacon in Gainesville's First Baptist Church and executive secretary of a local savings and loan association.

Jack Rutledge of Columbus, Ga., known as "The Singing Sheriff of Muscogee County," directed congregational singing.

824

October 2, 1967

2

Baptist Press

Tennessee Convention
To Move Office Building

825

350

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted here to purchase 6½ acres of land in Brentwood, Tenn., a suburb of Nashville; on which to build a new office building.

The property is located about 10 miles south of downtown Nashville just off Interstate 65 and U.S. Highway 31.

Earlier this year, the convention had secured property on Belmont Boulevard near their present location at Belmont College, but the Nashville Metro Zoning Commission would not approve zoning regulations permitting the construction.

W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board said he was pleased with the new property in Brentwood, but added "it is regrettable that we were forced to move from Nashville."

He said it is difficult to understand why the convention was not allowed to move its offices across the street, especially since it has invested heavily in properties surrounding Belmont College.

The Metro Zoning Commission would not approve the request for permission to build the million-dollar office building because present laws would require a minimum of 300 parking spaces in relation to the amount of office space the Tennessee Convention would occupy.

Convention officials said they did not need 300 parking spaces, and that they would have as many as 200 or 250 vacant parking spots per day if these requirements were met.

The decision to move the state convention offices to nearby Brentwood will tak the convention offices outside of Davidson County into adjoining Williamson County where the parking-office space ratio is not required.

The new building, expected to be completed in early 1969, will provide offices for the Executive Board staff, the Baptist and Reflector state paper, the convention's Foundation, and the manager of the convention's four children's homes.

The Earl Swensson Architects, Inc., has been selected to design and plan the new two-story building.

In other action, the Executive Board voted to recommend adoption of a \$5 million Cooperative Program budget goal for 1968, pending final approval by the convention when it meets in Memphis in November. One-third would go to Southern Baptist Convention causes and two-thirds to the state convention programs of work.

-30-

Dallas Church's
Steeple Coming Down

826

10/2/67

126

DALLAS (BP)--Time marches on. Even church steeples must come down with age.

First Baptist Church of Dallas, largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention, is losing its 77-year-old steeple. It is located atop the church building erected in 1890.

Roy Ramsour, business administrator for the 100-year-old church, reported that a demolition crew is at work tearing down the church's steeple.

Plans call for the erection of a new steeple in the near future, Ramsour said.

The old steeple is coming down "because it has rotted out and has become dangerous," the church spokesman said.

"A lot of people hate to see it come down...but time takes its toll," he added.

W. A. Criswell is pastor of the 14,000 member congregation which is observing its 100th anniversary celebration this year.

-30-

825-826

October 2, 1967

3

Baptist Press

252

Mississippi Dean Named
Baptist College President

827

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--The board of trustees for Mississippi College here has named the dean of the graduate school at the University of Mississippi, William Lewis Nobles, as new president of the Baptist school, effective July 1, 1968.

Nobles is an active Baptist layman, college professor, administrator, and researcher of "national reputation," according to the college trustees' announcement.

"We feel as though we have been led to the right man," said B. C. Rogers of Morton, Miss., chairman of the board at Mississippi College in announcing his unanimous election.

He will succeed R. A. McLemore, who will step down from the college presidency after a decade of service. McLemore reaches mandatory retirement age in June of 1968.

Nobles, 42, has been on the Ole Miss faculty since 1952, and dean of the graduate school since 1960.

He joined the Ole Miss faculty after receiving his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Kansas. Previously he had earned degrees from the University of Mississippi and was a fellow at the University of Michigan.

Nobles was professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at Ole Miss, and has served for many years as coordinator of university research. He is the author of about 75 technical papers and co-author of several textbooks.

An active Baptist layman, Nobles is a leader in the First Baptist Church of Oxford, Miss., where he is deacon and former Sunday School superintendent and Training Union director.

The college trustees had been seeking a successor to McLemore since he announced his intention to retire at the close of the current school year. The McLemore's will continue to live in Clinton.

-30-

Baptist Film On Holy Land
Wins Columbus Film Award

828

10/2/67

126

FORT WORTH (BP)--"The Search," a 30-minute color film documentary of the Holy Land and her people's quest for the living God, has placed in the top five films at the 15th Annual Columbus Film Festival in Columbus, Ohio.

The program was produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here for its 1967 "The Answer" series.

The commission was to receive a Chris certificate at the Chris Awards banquet in Columbus in October.

The Baptist film was one of more than 400 entries in the Columbus Film Festival, one of the oldest festivals of its kind in the nation.

The festival is jointly sponsored by the Film Council of Greater Columbus and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.

Competing films were judged by professionals in their fields on such factors as acting, clarity, technical proficiency, interest, and truthful presentation.

-30-

66

Baptist Professor Dies

829

10/2/67

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Philip Graham, chairman of the Hardin-Simmons University English department, died at his home here of an apparent heart attack.

He had been a member of the Baptist school's faculty since September, 1966. He was a member of the University of Texas English faculty for 40 years.

-30-

827-829

October 2, 1967

4

Baptist Press

Expectant Father's Day 820
Program Draws Response

210

FORT WORTH (BP)--When the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission produced a radio program on Expectant Father's Day (Sept. 17), the commission here was deluged with heavy mail response to the broadcast.

The first week after the program was aired during the "MasterControl"* variety program, the commission received more than 1,500 requests for printed copies of portions of the program.

By comparison, the commission received fewer than 300 such requests during the entire month preceding the broadcast.

Featured on the special Expectant Father's Day program was an essay by Jay Gould of WOWO Radio in Fort Wayne, Indiana, expressing his philosophy of raising children. It was followed by an interview with John W. Drakeford, psychology professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and head of its marriage and family counseling center.

The 30-minute variety program also included a repeat of Paul Harvey's observations on "What Are Fathers Made Of?"

The program concluded with an inspirational vignette by Richard Brannon noting the difference between "fathering" and "being father" saying that a real father is "a whole lot like God," and with a prayer of a father for his child by Louis H. Evans.

"MasterControl"* is presented weekly by Southern Baptists with the prayer that listeners will permit their lives to be controlled by the Master, Jesus Christ, according to a Radio-Television Commission official.

-30-

Seminarian's Book 821
Featured By Club

10/2/67 98

MANHASSET, N.Y. (BP)--A book by an administrative official of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, James H. Blackmore, has been chosen as the February selection of the Pulpit Digest's Book Service Club here.

The book, entitled A Preacher's Temptations, describes some of the temptations that ministers face, offering ways of escape from these temptations. Line drawings illustrate each temptation, and a suggested prayer complements each meditation.

Blackmore, a former pastor and army chaplain, is director of public relations for the seminary.

-30-

820-821