

# (BP)

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# ---FEATURES

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Negro Southern Baptist  
To Give Major Address

By Terry Young  
Editor, California Southern Baptist

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--When Rueben Scott steps to the pulpit of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in Reno, Nevada, he will be making history.

The Fresno minister is the first Negro Southern Baptist pastor to be asked to preach the annual sermon, or keynote address, at the state convention. But he probably won't be the last.

Scott is one of 21 Negro Baptist ministers within the California convention. They comprise a small but growing group among Southern Baptists.

In one sense Scott is no different from any one of a thousand other Southern Baptist pastors in California and Nevada. He is a Southern Baptist by conviction, believing that both the doctrinal beliefs and the church programs of Southern Baptists offer the best hope of making a Christian contribution to our society.

Scott is pastor of the Providence Baptist Church here, a church he and his wife began with the help of three others in August of 1962. The church was originally named Union Baptist Church but the name was later changed to Providence Baptist Church because they believed God's leadership was so pronounced and evident.

It was not a Southern Baptist church from the beginning, but Scott said it was his intention from the first to develop a Southern Baptist church.

The pastor gained an appreciation of the education program of Southern Baptist churches through what he learned as an employee of the Baptist Book Store in Austin, Tex., and later in Fresno.

While he was working at the book store in Austin, he was a member of the New Mt. Olive Baptist Church, a church affiliated with another convention. He and others led the church to institute a Southern Baptist program. It was at this church that he was ordained a deacon and later felt called to the ministry.

In 1961 the Baptist Book Store in Austin was closed and Scott was transferred to the store in Fresno. A few months later he began to lead in organizing the Providence church.

When Scott led his church to petition the Fresno Southern Baptist Association (now known as the Mid-Valley Association) for fellowship, he found that they were enthusiastically welcomed.

Scott has filled several leadership roles in the local association. He has been a member of the public affairs committee. He served as chairman of the associational missions committee. He preached the annual sermon at the 1966 meeting of the Mid-Valley Association. He was selected to serve as pastor-advisor to the state Southern Baptist student organization in California in 1966.

Southern Baptists have helped Scott and his church. The young congregation was enabled to purchase property by a site fund loan of \$15,000 from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Later the same agency made the congregation a \$20,000 loan for the construction of its first building. This loan was partially underwritten by a sister congregation in Fresno, the West Park Baptist Church, where Burnett Whitaker is pastor.

Scott's salary is partially paid by the state convention and the Home Mission Board through a salary supplement plan which aids pastors of small churches in the denomination.

He currently is enrolled in Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., as a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree. He graduated last year from the Fresno Pacific College. He commutes to Mill Valley weekly for his theological training.

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His talented wife, Margaret, is employed as a secretary in the state convention offices in Fresno.

Scott talks enthusiastically about the growth of his church. The church first met in rented quarters in Jericho, which (despite its Biblical name) is one of the rough sections of West Fresno. Later it met in a Seventh Day Adventest building and an elementary school.

In August the church moved into its own building providing quality education and worship facilities for 150 persons.

While he is enthused about the new building, Scott is even more excited about the church's ministry to person after person.

He tells of a man who came, tired of living and discouraged with the way he was living. Through the church's and pastor's ministry, the man was converted along with his wife and nine of their ten children. They have found a new way of life that is rewarding and fulfilling as a result of the church's ministry.

This is simply a story of Southern Baptists at work, whether black or white.

When Reuben Scott steps into the pulpit in Reno to bring the annual sermon to the state convention, he will be demonstrating one more time that Southern Baptists are preaching a gospel that is color blind.

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BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers



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Commission Votes End  
To Beam Publication

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FORT WORTH (BP)--The Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to discontinue publication of its monthly magazine, Beam International, probably about the first of the year.

The commission unanimously approved a plan presented by its publications committee suspending the monthly magazine in favor of a three-point proposal to reach different audience groups which now read Beam International. They proposed:

1. That the commission establish a newsletter especially for the radio and television industry and mail it free to the 6,000 radio and television stations in the nation.
2. That the commission purchase advertising space in Baptist state papers to carry features formerly published in Beam International, especially listing radio and television programs carried by stations within that state.
3. That the commission print copies of the sermons preached on The Baptist Hour radio program and make them available to pastors and laymen who desire them.

"We are not abandoning the Beam," said Radio-Television Commission Executive Director Paul M. Stevens. "We are simply taking advantage of its already established and successful channels of communication to our Southern Baptist constituency and we will be trying harder than ever to bend the ear of the (radio-TV) industry."

Stevens said it was a matter of good stewardship to discontinue the publication, which he said had been very costly, especially in terms of its 28,000 circulation. Through the 29 Baptist state papers, the commission has a potential advertising circulation of 1½ million.

He added that since the Beam was established in 1954, it had been aimed at two target audiences; both the radio and television industry, and the Baptist program listening and viewing audience. The new approach will give different approaches to the different audiences.

In other major actions, the 30 commission members meeting here elected an area representative. The area office will be located in Dallas.

Named to the post was Don Chanslor, a native of Fort Worth who had been in marketing, advertising and research for 20 years, with the American Tobacco Co. Recently he has held the distributorship for Ekco Products in Dallas.

Two new programs produced by the commission will be released in 1968, the commission was told.

One will be a five-minute animated children's television program in color, entitled "Jot." Thirteen episodes of the new series are complete and ready for distribution in January.

The second new program is a college radio service entitled "Omniscope." It will feature panel discussions, interviews of the type on the commission's "MasterControl" program, and music of the college generation.

Stevens said that all current subscribers of Beam International will be notified well in advance of the publication of the last issue of the magazine and will be offered several options, including return of the full value of their subscription fee if desired.

"The Beam was born out of necessity in 1954 (when) the commission was new and unknown, both to the broadcasting world and to our own denomination," Stevens said. "We knew we had to find a vehicle to tell our story. It has fulfilled its first responsibility, and we are ready to expand its present effectiveness."

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Plans call for the commission to begin purchasing advertising space in the Baptist state papers in early 1968.

The advertisements will carry some features formerly found in Beam International, with special emphasis on a listing of the commission-produced radio and television programs and the times they appear on stations within each state. Each ad will be identified by an adaptation of the signature now used by the magazine.

The newsletter to the radio and television industry will be designed for the busy station manager, giving him information he wants in the form he will read with interest, Stevens said.

The printed sermons broadcast over The Baptist Hour will be published quarterly and made available at very modest cost, he added. The sermons are currently printed each month in Beam International.

Name of the monthly magazine was changed from The Beam to Beam International in January of 1967 when the publication also began using color photographs throughout the magazine.

Charles Roden, special assistant to the executive director of the commission, has been serving as interim managing editor since the resignation earlier this year of James T. Johns who went into business for himself.

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Tentative Plans Outlined  
For Crusade Laymen's Meet

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RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)--Tentative program plans for a hemispheric-wide Baptist laymen's congress here July 15-21 have been announced by the chairman of the Crusade of the Americas layman's committee, Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., U.S.A.

The Pan American Baptist Laymen's Evangelism Congress will feature morning and afternoon sessions at the First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro, with city-wide evangelistic sessions each night.

The evening evangelistic meetings will meet at the 30,000-seat Maracanazinho auditorium.

Principal speakers for the evening sessions will be David Gomes, secretary of the Home Mission Board for the Brazilian Baptist Convention; Nilson Fanini, pastor of the Baptist church at Niteroi, Brazil, just across the bay from Rio de Janeiro; Samuel Libert, area coordinator for the Crusade of Americas for Southern Latin America; and Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board.

Each of the evening messages will be preceded by testimonies from laymen, and a religious concert by an outstanding vocal artist, said Cooper, president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., and chairman of the committee sponsoring the conference.

Already enlisted as soloists for the congress are Irene Jordan of the Metropolitan Opera, J. Robert Bradley, director of church music for the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc.; and Russell Newport, president of Newport Stores in Springfield, Mo.

About 750 Baptists from throughout North, Central and South America are expected to attend the congress. About 250 of the number would come from the United States.

Immediately following the congress, the Baptist laymen would divide into teams and conduct weekend laymen's revivals in churches throughout Brazil on the weekend of July 19-21.

The layman's organization for each of the 38 participating Baptist bodies in the Crusade of the Americas is handling invitations to attend the hemispheric-wide congress. The Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is handling invitations for Southern Baptist laymen.

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Stetson's Law Dean  
To Retire In 1968

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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (BP)--The dean of Stetson University's College of Law here, Justice Harold L. Sebring, has announced plans to retire effective Sept. 1, 1968, but will remain at the college to teach and write.

Sebring, former chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court, has been dean at the law school since 1955.

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Pastor Named Development  
Head At Oklahoma School

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SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--Oklahoma Baptist University has named Robert L. Cargill of Hollis, Okla., as its director of development.

Cargill, 38, has been pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hollis, Okla., for the past six years. His appointment is effective Nov. 1, succeeding Evans T. Moseley who resigned this summer.

The new development officer is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He is former pastor of Baptist churches in Shawnee, Dallas, Wichita, Kan., and Tonkawa, Okla. He is currently a member of the college's board of trustees, and a member of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Atlanta Committees Created  
For Pastor-Church Relations

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ATLANTA (BP)--Two special committees to deal with church-pastor relationships and with church-denominational relationships were created here by action of the Atlanta Baptist Association.

The action, by vote of 127-47, follows a long period of public discussion concerning growing tensions between laymen and ministers, and the problems that arise when a pastor is fired.

During 15 minutes of debate on the action, one speaker favored appointment of the two committees, and two opposed the measure.

The church related vocations liaison committee will "help build lines of communication between prospective pastors, other staff ministers, and the church on a request basis."

It will also "stand ready to counsel with pastors, staff ministers and churches when asked to do so," and "will serve as a channel of information for those churches, pastors and staff ministers desiring to share information with the committee or those with proper authority desiring information."

The fellowship committee will "consider requests that involved alleged questionable conduct or doctrine on the part of pastors, other staff ministers or churches."

It will also "handle matters involving fellowship between churches and/or questions of fellowship between the association and a church, or any denominational body involving the Atlanta Baptist Association."

Four restrictions were placed on the duties of the church related vocations liaison committee: it may not suggest men to the churches except on request from the churches' committees; it may not approach a church except on the request for counseling; it may not reveal confidential information involved in its work unless the parties concerned approve in writing; and it may not become a "screening committee" or "standards committee."

In other action, the association voted to purchase a 650-acre tract of land near Jasper, Ga., for a possible assembly site, and to sell a piece of property it owns near Georgia State College on which it had planned to build a Baptist center.

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BP PHOTO OUTLINES

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NEGRO TO PREACH CONVENTION SERMON: Southern Baptist Pastor Reuben Scott (left) of Fresno, Calif., will preach the annual convention sermon at the Southern Baptist General Convention of California when it meets in Reno, Nevada, Nov. 8. Scott is a former Baptist Book Store employee in Fresno and Austin, Tex., and his wife (center) is a secretary at the state convention office in Fresno. At right is William Updike, city missionary for the Mid-Valley Southern Baptist Association in Fresno, which accepted "enthusiastically" the Providence Baptist Church which Scott leads as a Southern Baptist congregation. (BP Photo)

(TO ACCOMPANY FEATURE MAILED 10/20/67)

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