

October 21, 1949

ENLARGED PLANS FOR WORLD ADVANCE IN 1950 LAID
BY FOREIGN MISSION BOARD IN SEMIANNUAL SESSION

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--"The test of Christian missionary undertaking abroad is not the number of souls won, but the vitality of the native Christian constituency," Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, told members of the Board at its recent semiannual session here.

To finance its program in 27 nations during 1950, the Board approved a budget of \$3,264,714.32 to be added to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for a total budget of \$5,250,000. Dr. Rankin declared that Southern Baptists are "in big business with God. This business requires the courage and faith to think and plan in big terms."

The Board now has 98 of its total staff of 200 China missionaries still in the Orient, according to the air mail report of Orient Secretary Baker James Cauthen at Hong Kong. There are 41 missionaries in Shanghai and environs, 20 in and around Canton, four at Bangkok, six at Macao, six at Hong Kong, two on Formosa, and 19 in the Philippines. "China missionary homes have not been molested and the missionaries go about the Communist-occupied cities freely," the report continued.

Dr. Cauthen reported after a survey of Japan that the Board's mission in Kyushu and Honshu has already surpassed its prewar status. Although Southern Baptists have never had more than 17 missionaries under appointment for Japan at any one time, today they have 38. The men's college has been raised to university status with co-educational programs, and the school for young women is a teacher-training institution. A Baptist hospital in Hiroshima, the first medical institution of the Board in Japan, was approved. At the invitation of the Japan Baptist Convention, the Board authorized a preaching mission to Japan next spring, to permit 20 Southern Baptist preachers to spend a month or more visiting the 18 Baptist churches and numerous preaching centers. "Our over-all mission strategy now," according to the report, "is to place a missionary couple in each of the 40 prefectural capitals on Kyushu and Honshu."

The Board also authorized a year's study of the opportunity for Baptist missions in Korea.

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Dr. Ralph Herring, Winston-Salem pastor, and member of the Board, who toured South America this year, stressed the need for developing native leadership and the obligation of missions to use the radio in evangelistic work. Rev. Henry W. Schweinsberg, a native of Australia, former missionary to Bolivia, now senior missionary of the Board in Colombia, reported on an intensive survey of Ecuador and Peru as new Baptist mission fields. The Board adopted the committee's recommendation that the possibility of sending missionaries to these two Latin American republics be seriously considered. "We must build into the new society of South America a concept of true Christianity," Dr. Everett Gill, Jr. secretary for Latin America, said.

Opportunities in Palestine require a stronger missionary staff, declared Dr. George W. Sadler, secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Near East, reporting by air mail from Zurich. That mission now has 15 missionaries, 11 of whom are women, "and in an area where the status of womanhood is so low, the prestige of the mission makes it imperative that we send more men to the Near East."

Dr. Frank K. Means, secretary of the Board's relief committee, reported that the clothing warehouse operated in New Orleans since January 1, 1948, has processed 3,750,000 pounds of used clothing in twenty-one months. This center will be closed December 15. The committee adopted a goal of 1,200 D.P. family units to resettle in the Southern states, under the direction of Charles R. Gage of New Orleans.

The Board appointed 14 new missionaries for lifetime service overseas, making a total of 704 lifetime missionaries and ten missionaries on short terms. The goal for the Board's advance program is 1,750 missionaries.

The new appointees, seven couples, include seven ordained ministers. All but two of the fourteen are from Texas. They are as follows:

William Judson Blair and Dorothy Rose Sullivan Blair of Fort Worth, Tex., for Argentina, where Mr. Blair was born of missionary parents.

Julius Raht Hickerson, Jr., and Vivian Dunn Hickerson of Dallas, Tex., for Colombia.

Stanley Procter Howard, Jr. and Patsy Ruth McGee Howard of Waco, Tex., for Japan.

Joe Carl Johnson and Colene Richards Johnson of Dallas, Tex., for North Brazil.

Boyd Allen O'Neal and Irma Edna Schneider O'Neal of Stephenville, Tex., for North Brazil.

Herman Sandford and Juanita Dadisman Sandford of Plainview, Tex., and Wichita, Kansas, for Nigeria, West Africa.

Blainard Elmo Scoggin and Hannah Belle Pearlman Scoggin of Canal Point, Fla., and Chesnee, S. C., for Palestine.

EVANGELISM WILL BE PRINCIPAL
1950 OBJECTIVE FOR BROTHERHOOD

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptist men will promote evangelism as their principal 1950 objective, it was decided in the annual meeting of state representatives of the Baptist Brotherhood of the South in session here at the Peabody hotel. Thirty laymen from 16 states were present.

Other objectives noted are development of the Man and Boy Movement and increased support of the Southern Baptist Convention's financial programs, the Baptist foundations, and the Cooperative Program.

In connection with these objections they have set as goals 300 laymen's revivals 1500 certificates for completion of man and boy projects, 1000 new local brotherhoods 100 new associational or district brotherhoods and 54,000 average quarterly distribution of the Brotherhood journal.

All present officers were re-elected. They include John W. McCall, chairman, J. N. Belate, vice-chairman, Dr. C. H. Heacock, treasurer, and E. C. Smith, recording secretary, all of Memphis. Also full-time officers, Lawson H. Cooke, executive-secretary, Hugh F. Latimer, associate executive secretary, and George W. Schroeder, associate secretary-editor.

Focal point for the year's program will be October 8, annual Layman's Day, emphasizing, "The pastor in the pulpit and the laymen in the pews." The day will be celebrated with a special layman's program in all the churches and a national layman's day hook-up of 130 radio stations.

The Baptist Brotherhood of the South covers 22 southern and western states and embraces 136,000 Baptist men in 4,050 organizations. New brotherhoods reported for 1949 were around 850.

Value of the Brotherhood movement was summed up in reports of the state representatives to the group. Howard P. Wright, Maryland railroad man said, "We are utilizing more and more our men who have had no work to do in church." Bryce Twitty, Tulsa, Oklahoma hospital administrator said, "the greatest challenge to Southern Baptists is this Brotherhood organization. It is Baptist men at work," He urged the men to start book-of-the-month clubs for pastors in smaller churches.

Ivy Lee Boggs, estate analyst from Dallas, Tex., warned the Baptist men to stay close to the essentials of Christianity. He recommended development of the pastor as the church's best salesman. "The attitude of laymen toward the pastor will make him what he ought to be."

WALNUT STREET CHURCH OF LOUISVILLE
HAS BEEN "FIFTY-FIFTY" FOR CENTURY

LOUISVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--"Fift.-Fifty by 1950" is no new idea for Walnut Street Baptist Church here, which is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. The largest Baptist church in Kentucky and mother of a long list of churches in this area, Walnut Street has in its 99 years thus far received \$3,646,357.52 in contributions, of which \$1,848,403.83, has been spent for missions and benevolences.

This giving to outside causes has in no way impoverished the local church which 50 years ago forsook Walnut street for a location at Third and St. Catherine Streets in Louisville where there are now 31 pianos, two organs, two auditoriums, 50-odd classrooms, a nursery with 30 baby cribs, a suite of eight carpeted offices, a king-size card file with 4,909 names, accounting and auditing books, typewriters, kitchen and dining room, and seats for around 4,000 persons, young and old.

The church now has 16 paid employees and 4,909 members. The Sunday school has an average attendance of 1,600. Dr. W. R. Pettigrew has been pastor since 1946.

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"PROVE ME HOUR" SERIES
HEARD ON 125 STATIONS

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Every set of "Prove Me Hour" transcriptions produced by the Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention for the Convention's Executive Committee have already been scheduled by radio stations, according to Dr. S. F. Lowe, director of the Commission. The 125 stations now carrying these broadcasts are scattered throughout 18 of the Convention states.

Produced to show the need of individual stewardship, the program is aimed at increased Christian missions throughout the world. Among the six 15-minute transcriptions are messages by Robert G. Lee, R. C. Campbell, J. Clyde Turner, and Duke K. McCall, also a dramatized stewardship presentation, and a series of testimonies given by outstanding Baptist laymen, including W. Maxey Jarman and others.

As the transcriptions are returned from the radio stations to the Commission, they will be made available to churches which have equipment for using 16-inch records for use in their services or on special occasions. Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion for the Executive Committee, says "any one or all of these records would make a very effective presentation of stewardship in any church. This is one of a number of services being rendered by the Executive Committee in cooperation with the Radio Commission to supply stewardship audio-visual aids in the churches."

These transcriptions may be secured from the Radio Commission, 1585 Ponce de Leon, Atlanta, Ga., without cost other than shipping charges one way.

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