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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

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

December 20, 1967 1194

"Schools Of Missions" Now
"World Missions Conferences"

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ATLANTA (BP)--Along with the new year 1968, a 38-year-old denominational ministry, Schools of Missions gets a new image in January.

Effective Jan. 1, 1968, Schools of Missions become World Missions Conferences, emphasizing a program outline that was introduced about two years ago.

Since 1929, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board and state conventions have sponsored Schools of Missions for the mission education of total church memberships.

According to Kenneth Day, secretary of the Home Mission Board's department of missionary education, a total of 1,233,054 persons have attended a reported 133 Schools of Missions programs in 1967. During these meetings, 453 persons made professions of faith. Reports have not been received from another scheduled 16 schools.

"There has been a growing feeling for about the last five years that a name change was needed for this popular mission emphasis," Day said.

Since 1943 about 25 million persons have attended some 3,500 associational programs. In these meetings, about 10,000 persons made professions of faith and another 30,000 volunteered for missionary service.

In 1966, a committee was appointed at the annual meeting of the state directors of Schools of Missions to study the possibility of a name change.

Harold Basden, associate secretary of the division of promotion for the Foreign Mission Board, headed the committee.

State directors were unanimous in their endorsement of the new name and Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood leadership (who jointly sponsor an annual World Missions Conference at Glorieta or Ridgecrest) supported the new name and said it would complement the larger conference.

Traditionally the program outline calls for messages by two foreign missionaries, two home missionaries and a state missionary as well as a visual feature and a stewardship program.

The modified format which was introduced about two years ago provides for the same number and ratio of missionary speakers, but suggests the incorporation of visual aids and stewardship emphases within the missionary programs rather than as individual highlights.

The modified format also plans for five services in one-half week in contrast to the traditional seven services in one week. Each plan encourages group study of current mission books either before or after the missions conference.

Day noted that of 159 World Missions Conferences already scheduled for 1968, 78 plan to use the modified format. "Churches and missionaries are reporting favorable responses to this new plan, primarily because it provides the same missions emphasis in a shorter period of time," Day said.

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Mississippi Pastor Gets
Award For Race Relations

1195

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BROOKHAVEN, Miss. (BP)--The pastor of the First Baptist Church here, Bob N. Ramsay, has been presented an award by the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce in recognition of Ramsay's role in bringing about better understanding between white and Negro races in the community.

The award was presented by Chamber of Commerce President J. V. Phillips at a dinner meeting attended by 300 business and professional people.

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The citation tells of Ramsay's learning that "forces had gathered in antagonistic centers, and that a clash of these (Negro and white) forces threatened the well-being of his community."

Continuing, the citation said that "because of his deep personal concern for people," he walked, uninvited into the meeting of men "who were seeking to understand each other, but with little success.

"He talked and his voice was heard," the citation said. "When he finished he had committed himself to a task--a task not yet finished and one that perhaps has no ending.

"The task to him reduces itself to people and to these people he has imparted something of himself. Because of him there are more who are conscious of what they had forgotten. They remember to look for that some good that is in every man," the citation said.

The Baptist Record, official publication of the Mississippi Baptist Convention quoted sources in Brookhaven as saying that substantial progress in race relations has been made in the community.

The foundation for this progress largely has been through the formation and the work of a Biracial Committee on Communications of which Ramsay is chairman, the Baptist Record said.

Ramsay is the first minister to receive the award from the local Chamber of Commerce, which has presented the award annually for the past eight years.

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Walshes Give Additional Funds To Southwestern 1196

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FORT WORTH (BP)--For the second time in four months Mr. and Mrs. F. Howard Walsh have made a \$20,000 gift to Southwestern Seminary.

The two recent gifts have been ear-marked for use in the construction of a new seminary clinic and medical center, designed to care for the medical and dental needs of seminary families.

Construction on the new center is expected to begin during the current school year, according to President Robert E. Naylor. Included in the facility will be a complete laboratory, pharmacy, office, living quarters for a nurse, and several examining rooms.

Walsh, a member of the board of trustees for the seminary since 1963, is chairman of the trustees' building and grounds committee. The Walshes have made frequent gifts to the seminary.

Approximately one hundred people have made contributions, large and small, designated to this medical facility, according to the seminary's development office.

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Churches Aid Navajos Hit By Snow Storms 1197

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SHIPROCK, N.M. (BP)--Snow-trapped Navajo families near here received emergency food staples from area churches as the isolated Indians suffered under one of the worst storms of history.

Already caught in the throes of four and a half feet of snow, which wind has piled to 15 feet on some roads, the area is bracing for additional storms predicted by weather experts.

The Navajos, a sheep and goat herding people, were caught in their isolated hogans without fuel, food, and feed for their animals.

Authorities predict a loss of nearly a million head of livestock, probably two-thirds of it belonging to the Indians.

Nine Navajos are estimated to have lost their lives by freezing, and one named Cripple Boy Whitehorse, had been attending, with his family, the Baptist mission at Teec Nos Poss.

Whitehorse, a sheep herder, was caught without adequate clothing when the second of the area's heavy storms hit. He was found alone on the path back from herding his sheep to his hogan.

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James Nelson of Shiprock, Baptist missionary to the Navajos, said, "The people here are depressed because they cannot get to their families who are isolated on the reservation, and more snow is coming. The state has declared this a disaster area, and we expect the Federal Government to do the same. The loss of livestock, in addition to all the suffering, will hurt for some time to come."

Nelson said the churches of Shiprock and other nearby towns jumped in to help when the Navajo Council in the area asked for food for some 150 families (about 750 people) near Red Mesa and Teec Nos Poss.

Six denominational groups (Methodists, Baptists, United Reform, Catholics, Mormons, and Assembly of God) provided nearly \$1,000 in staples immediately to the Navajo Council.

Behind bulldozers which cleared the snow, the Indians and others familiar with the paths and roads took the food to the families. Many of the trapped Indians were women and children alone because the men were working off the reservation.

The government was flying feed and food to isolated families throughout New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado. Despite repeated requests most of the families refused to leave their hogans and livestock.

There are approximately 1,000,000 Navajos on the reservations, and about a third of them live in New Mexico. Southern Baptists have 35 missionaries with Indians in New Mexico, most of them with the Navajos.