

November 18, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

## NORFOLK CHURCH SHOWS TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

NORFOLK, Va.—(BP)—For the third time a living Christmas tableau using all 600 members of the Talbot Park Baptist Church will be one of the high lights of Norfolk's yuletide season.

The tableau is a complete presentation of the nativity of Jesus, displayed two hours nightly for ten nights on the front lawn of the church, and using people and actual animals as the characters. The actors work in relay, standing in position one hour at a time. Dozens of goats, cattle, mules, pigeons, geese and chickens add to the atmosphere of the scene. The most modern lighting, staging and costuming methods are used. A total of 18 committees work for six weeks preparing for the pageant.

The cast will not allow even the most inclement weather to interfere with the nightly performance.

Last year the usually quiet street in front of the church was proclaimed a one way thoroughfare by city officials to care for the 100,000 automobiles that brought an estimated 350,000 people to view the scene. The cars were counted by a "counting committee" watching from the second floor of the church.

Rev. Fred T. Laughon, Jr., pastor of the church, reports that this year merchants in the community shopping center are planning to decorate their store windows in harmony with the presentation.

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## NO MEMBERS YET: BUT CHURCH OPENS

OKLAHOMA CITY—(BP)—A church with no new members and no steps, but with a brand new \$32,000 building and a pastor, opened its doors here on a recent Sunday morning. It is the Mayflower Baptist Church and the brainchild of Dr. I. L. Yearby and the congregation of Trinity Baptist Church, its sponsor until it becomes self-supporting.

If plans go as scheduled, the church will become one of the large Baptist churches of Oklahoma City. Unique features of the program include a softball diamond and other recreational quipment on the spacious grounds. The structure was built at ground level so that prospective members will not have to climb steps.

The pastor is Hollis R. Morris.

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ONE BAPTISM FOR EVERY 10  
MEMBERS IS FLORIDA GOAL

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—(BP)—One baptism for every ten resident church members is the 1950 goal of Florida Baptists, according to W. G. Stracener, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, in his report of the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention held here. Other evangelistic plans voted by the messengers include a state-wide evangelistic conference in January, a goal of 36 new churches, and a missionary address in each church in the state during the first three months of the year.

The group adopted a Cooperative Program Goal of \$732,427.83 — a five per cent increase over 1949 — which will be divided 50-50 between state and Southwide causes. Each church was asked to increase its gifts to the Cooperative Program by at least five per cent over 1949, and all non-budget churches were requested to make a special offering to the Cooperative Program in 1950, its silver anniversary.

A change in the convention constitution permits a person to be elected president for a second term after a lapse of one year, if the convention should so desire. Another change limits each church to ten messengers. A \$100,000 religious center building at Stetson University was voted.

Dr. Millard J. Berquist, First Church, Tampa, was elected president.

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VIRGINIA BAPTISTS VOTE  
FIFTY-FIFTY DIVISION

RICHMOND, Va.—(BP)—The Baptist General Association of Virginia in its 126th annual session here voted a \$2,000,000 Cooperative Program goal. This will be divided 50-50 between state and Southwide causes, a "Fifty-Fifty by 1950" ideal toward which the entire Southern Baptist Convention has been striving.

The 1147 messengers voted a change in the constitution of the association which permits nomination for treasurer and executive secretary from the floor by messengers to the association. Heretofore the nomination has been made by the Board of Missions and Education or in the event of a rejection by any such nomination the appointment of a special committee by the president to bring other nomination.

R. C. McDanel, a layman and professor of history at the University of Richmond, was elected president. There were three other nominations for the office — all laymen.

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CHARLES F. SIMS ELECTED EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(BP)—The South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting her in the newly remodeled First Baptist Church, the only surviving building in which the Secession Convention met, set a 1950 Cooperative Program goal of \$1,800,000. Messengers to the convention voted to spend \$6,500,000 on a new combined campus for Furman University and the Woman's College of Furman University — \$3,500,000 to come from the Cooperative Program and \$3,000,000 from private subscriptions. North Greenville Junior College, formerly owned and operated by the North Greenville Association, was offered to the convention, and the matter was referred to its general board.

Future plans adopted at the meeting include a state-wide evangelistic conference in March and participation in the 1951 Eastern Evangelistic Campaign. The method of electing a general executive secretary-treasurer was changed from nomination on the convention floor to nomination by the general board and from a one-year term to an indefinite period of time.

Dr. Charles F. Sims was elected executive secretary to succeed the late Dr. W. S. Brooke. Dr. A. E. Tibbs, Dean of Furman University, was elected president.

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MCCALL TRAVELS 4,460 MILES IN WEST;  
MAKES FOUR CONVENTIONS IN THREE DAYS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the S.B.C. Executive Committee, appeared hale and hearty despite a strenuous four week tour climaxed with four speeches in four states in three days. His travel notes told this story:

Between the time he stepped off a plane in Santa Fe, N. Mex., and boarded another in Phoenix, Ariz., to return to Nashville, he had traveled 4,460 miles by car. Among other things, he attended the annual Baptist conventions of New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Oregon; attended to business matters relative to establishing a Western assembly at Glorieta, the Golden Gate Seminary, and the 1951 S.B.C. meeting to be held in San Francisco; and visited a number of home mission projects, particularly Indian missions.

And then came the four speeches in three days. Following the Western tour, the executive secretary was back in Nashville for a few days of office work. But early the next week he left again — this time on a three-day trip to present the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists to the annual conventions of Baptists in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.