



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Telephone (615) 254-1631

April 11, 1968

Oklahoma Church Leads  
SBC In '67 Conversions

290

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The statistical summary listed a total of 117 Southern Baptist churches with more than 100 conversions during 1967, nine churches with more than 200, and three churches with more than 300 conversions.

The Del City, Okla., church where John R. Bisagno is pastor topped the list with a total of 401 baptisms during the year.

Second on the list was Mid City Baptist Church in New Orleans, with 335 conversions (baptisms) during 1967. J. Paul Driscoll is the pastor.

Also reporting more than 300 baptisms during 1967 was South San Antonio (Tex.) Baptist Church where DeWitt Chandler Jr., is pastor. The Texas church listed 313 baptisms.

The research and statistics department of the SBC Sunday School Board which prepared the report made no comment or interpretation of the summary, releasing only the hard data. Some Southern Baptists feel that the number of baptisms is an indication of the spiritual state of a church, while others feel you cannot measure quality or spirituality by quantity of baptisms.

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Other churches with more than 200 baptisms (listed in order), the pastor of each and the number of conversions are:

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A complete listing of the churches with more than 150 baptisms (the top 28) is being mailed to each state paper where one or more churches is listed.

--Baptist Press

Grand Canyon College  
Gets Accreditation

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4/11/68

PHOENIX (BP)--Grand Canyon College here has been granted accreditation and membership by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The accreditation was granted during the annual meeting of the association in Chicago, attended by Grand Canyon President Arthur K. Tyson, Academic Dean Robert S. Sutherland, and Business Manager Harry Kent.

A hasty first-time-ever assembly was called on the lawn in front of the school's administration building to relay the report to the student body.

Grand Canyon College, a four-year liberal arts institution, presently has 583 students enrolled. Owned and operated by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, the school has been a candidate for membership in the accredited organization of schools since 1961.

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Alabama Baptists Start  
Radio, TV, Newspaper Ads

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--The Alabama Baptist State Convention has begun a series of advertisements in the state's radio, television and newspaper outlets, communicating such concepts as self-identity and involvement in helping people.

Baptist mission gifts are being used to pay for the "prime time" radio and television spots and newspaper ads as a means of reaching people with a Christian message.

Response from Baptists across the state has been overwhelming in favor of continuing the ads, and doing more in the future on a permanent basis, said David K. Morris, director of public relations for the convention.

The ads are being carried five to 10 times per week by 16 radio stations in the state, five or six times per week on nine television stations, and about once a month in 20 daily newspapers in Alabama.

Themes which are being used in spots and ads this spring include self-identity, concern for others, purpose in life, and Alabama Baptist institutions. Overall theme for the series is "Mainstream."

The ad on self-identity stated: "The last time you looked in the mirror, what did you see--a wrinkle, a grey hair, happiness? Did you really see you, or just the outside you? Or were you really trying to see your identity--you know, who you really are? Not just what others see, but what you stand for when the going gets rough; how you decide when there is a wrong and a right way; whether you keep silent when you really should say what you believe in.

"But the worst reflection of all is when you see nothing in the mirror. Life has lost direction. Identity is buried.

"But wait. Look around. There are people around you with a reflection, a special identity. Why? Because they are involved with others--working in hospitals, stimulating sound growth of mind, reaching down to help a child. These people, the more than 800,000 members of 3,000 Alabama Baptist churches, believe that Christ is the answer in finding your real identity. Find your real purpose, through faith. It's the mainstream of life."

Morris said the response had been overwhelmingly in favor of the ads, both in an informal survey to pastors and church leaders in Alabama, and reactions from station managers and newspapers.

Morris said that the response of the stations was better than expected, and that times scheduled were adjacent to or during the top-rated shows on television this season. Most of the radio spots were scheduled during "drive time" when people were going to or from work. One station manager said he was happy with the spots and would clear any time requested.

An estimated 600 to 700 informal survey cards were returned to the convention public relations office, and Morris said only two out of the entire group were unfavorable. One said, "You are competing with the Devil for prime spots to keep people out of church."

Other comments called the ads: "very good and thought-provoking," "spiritually uplifting," "past due," "it's wonderful," "some will be reached who might not have been in any other way," and "we need to 'sell' our Lord again in the marketplace."

The majority of those replying felt that the programs were of excellent quality, had a good message, were an appropriate way for the convention to advertise its work and helped the local church.

One or two replies asked why there could not be some tie-in with the Southern Baptist Convention, and one suggested that this type of advertising be done nation-wide.

Morris commented that the spots "are the type of thing that can reach people where they are when we can't reach them with the church's sermons and devotionals."

Morris works in coordination with United Advertising, Inc., of Birmingham and Atlanta, a public relations consulting firm which has been retained by the convention.

The Radio-Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention assisted in preliminary work in the series. The creative staff of the commission advised Alabama Baptists on the approach, and on some of the technical details involved in production.

April 11, 1968

3

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George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the Baptist State Executive Board commented, "These commercials and ads have been produced to extend the outreach of our convention and of the local church in projecting a fresh, vital, contemporary image of Baptists across our state. We are grateful for the response which we have already seen, and are reminded that all the churches in our convention share in this new venture which is supported by the Cooperative Program."

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Hack Named Audiovisual Education Consultant

293

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4/11/68

NAHSVILLE (BP)--John Hack, formerly minister of education and music at Forest Park Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., has been named audiovisual education consultant in the church library department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, effective April 1, 1968.

A graduate of Western Kentucky State University, Bowling Green, Hack received both the bachelor of church music and the master of religious education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Before his employment at Forest Park, he served in similar positions at Cave City Baptist Church, Cave City, Ky.; First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky.; First Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, Ky.; Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood, Ky.; and Berea Baptist Church, Berea, Ky.; and as audiovisual librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hack served as music director of Liberty and Simpson associations in Kentucky and as president of the Kentucky Baptist Library Association.

He is married to the former Joyce Harmon of Middleburg, Ky., and has a daughter, Sandra Kay, three.

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Raley Recovers From Surgery

294

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4/11/68

SHAWNEE (BP)--John Wesley Raley, president emeritus of Oklahoma Baptist University here, is recovering from gall bladder surgery at Shawnee Medical Center Hospital.

His physician said that further surgery is indicated later this month.

Raley served for 27 years as president of Oklahoma Baptist University, four years as chancellor and was named president emeritus two years ago following a heart attack.

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Congress Enacts Broad New Civil Rights Law

295

By W. Barry Garrett

700

4/11/68

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress, in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and of rioting in major cities in the United States, passed and sent to the President one of the most far-reaching civil rights bills in the nation's history.

While most of the public discussion of the civil rights bill has focused on its fair housing provisions, the 50-page act also includes civil rights for Indians, prohibitions or interference with federally-protected activities, a limited firearms control act and riot control provisions.

The House of Representatives first passed the civil rights bill in August, 1967. The Senate then held hearings and its Judiciary Committee reported a greatly altered bill.

When the second session of the 90th Congress convened in January of this year, a lengthy filibuster on civil rights followed. After much debate and many amendments, the new version of the civil rights bill emerged victorious.

The revised Senate version was stalled in the House of Representatives until it was jarred loose by the national upheaval caused by King's death and the following riots.

When the bill was brought to the floor of the House on April 10, the Representatives had two choices: vote for the bill as it came from the Senate, or vote to send it to a conference committee between the two houses of Congress, where presumably the differences in the two versions would be ironed out.

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Opponents of the Senate version of the civil rights bill urged referral to the Conference Committee. The reasons for this were obvious. The Conference Committee could consume much time in reconciling the Senate and House bills. Then, the revised bill faced the possibility of another long filibuster in the Senate, which probably would kill it.

After 60 minutes of debate the House took two roll call votes. The first, by a vote of 229 to 195, defeated the move to send the bill to conference committee. The second, by a vote of 249 to 171 approved the Senate version verbatim.

Here in greatly abbreviated form are the main provisions of the civil rights bill.

\* Protected activities--The act makes it a criminal offense to interfere with and discriminate against persons voting and participating in elections, enjoying benefits of state and federal services, seeking employment, serving on juries, attending public schools, traveling, gaining access to food, lodging and entertainment, and engaging in business during a riot or civil disorder.

\* Travel for riots--Prohibited is travel or use of mail, telegraph, telephone, radio or television with intent to incite riots. Also prohibited is the use of these means to organize, promote, encourage, participate in, or carry on a riot, or to commit any act of violence in furtherance of a riot, or to aid and abet any person in inciting or participating in a riot.

\* Rights of Indians--For the first time the Bill of Rights of federal Constitution is extended to the Indian tribes of the nation. The bill also provides for a model code of justice governing courts of Indian offenses, establishes jurisdiction over criminal and civil actions involving Indians, and provides for legal counsel for Indians.

\* Fair housing--The 1968 Civil Rights Bill says: "It is the policy of the United States to provide within constitutional limitations, for fair housing throughout the United States." To implement this policy it is unlawful to discriminate against a person because of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Hence the bill makes it unlawful to discriminate in selling or renting dwellings, to discriminate in the terms of selling or renting, to advertise on the basis of discrimination and to misrepresent in selling or renting.

Also prohibited is inducement to sell or rent property because of the entry of persons of particular race, color, religion or national origin into a neighborhood, discrimination in financing the sale or rental of homes, and the denial of brokerage services.

\* Exemptions to fair housing--Individual dwellings sold by the owner without advertising or use of brokers are exempt, within certain limitations. Religious organizations using their property for other than commercial purposes are exempt from the fair housing requirements. Likewise, private clubs not open to the public are exempt.

\* Firearms restrictions--It is now a criminal offense to teach or instruct the use, application or making of firearms, explosives or incendiary devices, knowing that they will be used in civil disorders.

Likewise, it is unlawful to transport or manufacture such items, knowing that they will be used in civil disorders.

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DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY  
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC