

VIRGINIA EDITOR INTERPRETS
PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

RICHMOND, Va.—(BP)—The Christian church is not an end in itself, according to Editor Reuben Alley, of the Religious Herald, state Baptist paper. In a recent editorial he declared, "Jesus conceived his church for a purpose. A demand for ecclesiastical conformity, which erroneously places emphasis upon the church as an end, will lead men astray into untrue or sterile evangelism — an evangelism which substitutes enrolment in the church for the sparkle and glow of Christian salvation. As the church loses itself in the true Christian mission of evangelism, thoughts about ecclesiastical differences give place to concern about lost men and women. And that seems to be in keeping with the mind and purpose of Jesus.

"Jesus founded the church to provide strength through Christian fellowship and to assure growth through Christian evangelism. One might say that evangelism is that outreach of Christian experience which rests as a necessity upon everyone who has shared life with Jesus. Evangelism — the Christian mission — is ir-
r sistible.

"The kingdom of God will not come by proclamation. The mission of Jesus Christ cannot be realized by public announcement. The disciples of Jesus who constitute his body as the church must give themselves to evangelism in order to mak the Gospel a power unto salvation. Evangelism is the responsibility of all Christian disciples. As long as the church depends upon ministers and missionaries for the propagation of the Gospel, progress of the kingdom will be slow and quite ineffective.

"An awareness of this weakness has aroused Protestant churches to new action. Denominations have plans to enlist members of the churches in personal evangelism — visitation evangelism, it is called,"

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TEXAS BAPTISTS HAVE
16 CHAIRS OF BIBLE

DALLAS, Tex.—(BP)—The recent opening of two additional Bible chairs brings to 16 the total number now being sponsored by Texas Baptists.

Southwest Texas State College at San Marcos and Texas Western College at El Paso are the sites of the two newly-opened chairs. They are housed in Baptist student centers on properties owned by the state convention which serve as meeting places for devotional, promotional, social, and Bibl study activities.

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TRAVELING "THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY"
PROVIDED NEGRO BAPTIST MINISTERS

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Negro Baptists in Mississippi have found a way to lift the educational level of their ministers whose average schooling is the fifth grade. It is by a traveling "theological seminary" presided over by Dr. Herbert Lee Lang.

Central offices of the school are located in Jackson. Other branches reach out into every section of the state. Faculty members go from place to place in cars and busses. Negro ministers working in their church fields or at secular jobs in the daytime have opportunity to study with the teachers in small groups at night. Those students whose interests and abilities develop above the average are encouraged to enrol in the regular daytime seminary at Jackson. In some instances they are provided scholarships.

In seven years of operation the seminary has reached 576 ministers through regular classes. There were 19 in the 1949 graduating class. A total of 5,343 have been given short-term instruction in "Bible institutes" and 6,563 boys and girls have received religious instruction in special summer time schools for children sponsored by the seminary.

Dr. Lang, founder and president of the school, is a veteran public school administrator and Negro Baptist minister. He has degrees from Talledega College, Florida A. and M., and Shorter College. He has done additional work in the University of Chicago. Mrs. Lang was formerly a nurse in the New Orleans Public Schools.

The Seminary has been certified and accepted by the Veterans Training Committee and is recognized and accredited for G.I. Trainees.

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D.C. BAPTISTS REPORT
MEMBERSHIP OF 28,882

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(BP)--District of Columbia Baptists reported at their recent convention 1323 baptisms and 1813 other additions during the year, bringing their total membership to 28,882, according to R. Edward Dowdy, editor, Capitol Baptist, official paper for Washington Baptists. Sunday School enrolment was announced as 21,473. All churches contributed to all causes a total of \$1,488,885.78.

New officers for the convention are Rev. Frank Burress, pastor, Fountain Memorial Church, president; Herbert Ludwig, layman, vice-president; Earl H. Pendell, secretary; and George Fraser, treasurer.

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MAN WHO HELPED TEXAS BAPTISTS
RAISE MILLIONS SOON TO RETIRE

EL PASO, Tex.—(BP)—Dr. J. W. Bruner, modest preacher whose work as endowment secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas has guided millions into Baptist institutions and work, has announced his retirement for the near future.

Bespectacled, deliberate Dr. Bruner said a lot of the big gifts received by his department — in which he was a one-man staff and whose salary has been \$6,292 a year — came simply from giving men of wealth "information." "A lot of people," he said, "thought I went around asking for money. I never asked people for money. I simply showed them what they could do with their money for the promotion of Christianity."

An idea of the work of Dr. Bruner is indicated in this paragraph from a report given at the meeting of the convention:

"In 1940 all of the institutions had a total of \$6,519,408.98 in endowment; these same institutions are reporting \$18,094,481.21 this year. In 1940 the Baptist schools and hospitals had a total property value of \$13,304,780.31. In 1949 the property value of the schools and hospitals is \$29,153,035.16.

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CUMBERLAND ALUMNI SERVE
PUBLIC AROUND THE WORLD

LEBANON, Tenn.—(BP)—Cumberland University, a Tennessee Baptist institution, has alumni in every state and five foreign countries, according to Honorable Harry Phillips, assistant attorney general of Tennessee and executive chairman of Cumberland's second century campaign.

Texas has 805, Oklahoma 499, Florida 264, Kentucky 209, Arkansas 325, Mississippi 267, and Alabama 110. It is estimated that every time court opens in Tennessee there is almost certain to be a Cumberland alumnus present, either at the bar as attorney or on the bench as judge.

The Cumberland University Law School counts among its alumni a cabinet member, two U.S. Supreme Court Justices and 12,000 other public servants.

Cumberland was founded in 1842 in Lebanon, the city of Cedars, the town where Sam Houston was practicing law when he began to lay plans to run for governor of Tennessee.

The University is now engaged in raising \$630,000 for rehabilitation. Honorable Josh Lee, member U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board, is general chairman, Phillips said.