

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 18, 1968

**3,097 Decisions Made
At Baptist Assemblies**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Guests and staffers at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist assemblies registered 3,097 decisions concerning their lives during 84 conferences this summer, according to David K. Alexander, vocational guidance counselor in the church training department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The greatest number of decisions--1,559--were reaffirmations to make Christ Savior and Lord of each one's life.

Those who said they feel God leading them toward a church vocation numbered 655. Another 647 expressed a desire to explore opportunities in church vocations and recorded their intention to follow God's leading.

Acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord was publicly professed by 236 persons.

An estimated 626 adults and 360 young people received information concerning Christian vocational guidance, while 357 guests and 209 staffers participated in counseling sessions.

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**Houston Church Conducts
Three Morning Services**

(10-18-68)

HOUSTON (BP)--Tallowood Baptist Church here runs three shifts every Sunday morning.

The church facilities get full usage at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 AM with worship services and Sunday School going on simultaneously at each of the three periods.

In 1966 the church had 1,538 enrolled in Sunday School and too many people to handle in one hour.

So the Sunday School was split into two periods.

Now with 2,168 enrolled and 60 percent average attendance the facilities will not handle the crowd in two periods.

So the Sunday School--and the worship services--have gone to three one-hour shifts.

Median age of members is a little below 40 years and the average age of prospects for the church is a little below 35.

Russell Dilday is the only pastor the young church has ever had.

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**Trial Book Store On
Corpus Christi Campus**

(10-18-68)

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--The University of Corpus Christi has been selected for a pilot project in book store operation by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The campus store has been leased for the current school year by the board to see if operation of book stores on college campuses through the board's book store division is desirable as a permanent arrangement, according to Keith C. Von Hagen, director of the book store division.

The University of Corpus Christi, a Baptist General Convention of Texas institution, will continue to have its book store managed by Tommy Billings, senior ministerial student, who has managed the store for two years. No personnel changes are anticipated.

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DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
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The lease arrangement with the University of Corpus Christi went into effect October 1.

"Because the Baptist book store operation handles a volume of more than \$16 million a year, they will have the advantage of making more books available to college students and teachers," Leonard L. Holloway, president, University of Corpus Christi, said.

"The University of Corpus Christi store will be strictly a campus store and is not to be confused with the 51 Baptist book stores in other cities," said Von Hagen.

"The Sunday School Board operates six stores on seminary campuses. This pilot project has as its purpose to see if it would be feasible to operate campus stores, and to determine just how far we will go into this arrangement," Von Hagen added.

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Carter Elected Head
Of Social Ministries

(10-18-68)

ATLANTA (BP)--Thomas Edwin Carter of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has been named to direct the denomination's expanding Program of Christian Social Ministries.

The program, one of 12 centered in the Home Mission Board here, creates and gives direction to a variety of ministries to the economically disadvantaged, troubled youth and nonreaders.

Carter previously was assistant director of institutional chaplaincy in the Home Mission Board's Division of Chaplaincy.

His training includes a bachelor's degree from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., a master's degree in psychology from Florida State University in Tallahassee, and a master of religious education and doctor of religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He has been a pastor in Georgia and Florida, a U.S. Army chaplain, chaplain at a Fort Worth Maternity Home and Adoption Agency for Unmarried Mothers, and a staff counselor at the Buckner Baptist Family Service Center in Dallas.

Chaplaincy assignments with the U.S. Army included a stint at Fort Leavenworth, where Carter worked with death row prisoners and others under maximum security conditions.

The ministries of the department, which spend more than \$1 million a year, includes combined social work-evangelism outreach through Baptist centers, literacy missions, church week-day programs, ministries to troubled youth and their families and migrant mission efforts. Work with children's homes, with alcohol and drug addicts and with ex-prisoners and their families are relatively new emphases in the work.

"The department has as its main mission to lead people to Jesus Christ," Carter said.

"Yet in helping them to reach a decision and become new creatures in Christ, we must look at them and their total situation. Most of those who are ministered to by the department will need the experience of God's Salvation, but also will need help in changing their whole pattern of living."

The Program of Christian Social Ministries was elevated to department status in the Division of Missions about two years ago. Since then, consultants have been added to the work with Baptist centers and the work with delinquent youth and their families.

Directorship of the department became vacant in April 1968, when Paul R. Adkins left to direct Baptist institutions for the aged in Florida.

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Southern Baptists Survey
Negro-White Cooperation

ATLANTA (BP)--A recent survey of Southern Baptist churches concerning the admission of Negroes has revealed some "significant figures in terms of actual practice," according to one missions leader here.

For example, nearly 3,800 Southern Baptist churches (about 11 percent of the approximate 34,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention) representing 70 percent of the states in this nation said they would be willing to receive Negroes as members.

In actuality more than 500 churches report already having one or more Negro members.

"From the standpoint of actual numbers, these reports may seem insignificant," said W. R. Grigg of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"But these figures represent a significant development in actual practice among our churches that has come about as recently as the last five years."

The survey was conducted by the Department of Work with National Baptists of the Home Mission Board.

Response was solicited from all superintendents of missions (director of work in counties or comparable district areas) within the Southern Baptist Convention (with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii). Of about 750 contacted, more than half responded, representing at least 80 percent of the states.

Of at least 39 states responding, nearly all reported at least some churches with either a willingness to admit Negroes or that already had Negro members (with the exception of Alabama, Louisiana).

Grigg said the survey was not designed to reveal how many churches actively were aiming evangelistic outreach to Negroes as well as other races, but was conducted mainly as a source for frequently-requested information. No follow-up is planned, he added.

California reported the largest number of churches with Negro members, 104; but 539 California churches reported being willing to receive Negroes.

In the so-called deep South, Florida reported the largest number of churches willing to receive Negroes, 131, while 14 Florida churches reported actually having Negro members. Georgia reported 17 churches willing to receive Negroes and two with Negro members; Mississippi, six willing and three with Negro members.

More than 60 churches with entirely Negro congregations were reported as members of Southern Baptist Associations of Churches. These integrated groups cooperating in denominational work are reported in California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas.

"We also feel this information will be helpful in implementing the statement on the (racial) crisis in our nation adopted this year by our convention," Grigg said. (The Home Mission Board was assigned major responsibilities in initiating this implementation.)

CORRECTION

(Please substitute the following story for the one by the same title which was mailed (10-16-68)

SBC Official's Father Dies

DALLAS (BP)--James Hardy Valentine, 81, father of Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Executive Secretary Foy D. Valentine, died here October 14.

Funeral services were held in Edgewood, Tex., about 50 miles east of Dallas, Oct. 16. Valentine had been a patient at the Mary E. Trew Home of Buckner Baptist Benevolences.

Another son, James H. Valentine, resides at Lubbock, Texas.



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