



BAPTIST PRESS

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, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Billy Keith, 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

November 26, 1968

SBC President Honored;
Church Pledges \$2 Million

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President W. A. Criswell, elated over the over-subscription of a \$2 million budget for the First Baptist Church here where he is pastor, was honored with a testimonial luncheon by the Dallas Baptist Association the next day.

More than 550 friends and colleagues of the famed Bible preacher attended the luncheon which featured humorous anecdotes and warm praise.

Criswell seemed delighted, especially after the 15,000-member church had pledged \$118,000 more than its record budget of \$2,045,000.

The church ended a month-long budget campaign with a one-day climax called "victory day." The \$118,000 over-subscription is a preliminary report which probably will increase as later pledges are made.

Church leaders indicated that they tried to determine if any other church in the nation has a budget of more than \$2 million, and were unable to learn of any. It may be the largest local church budget in the nation.

The budget extends \$1,061,585 for missionary, denominational and benevolent causes, and designates \$984,079 for local church use.

It is a \$240,000 increase over last year's budget, and marks the eighth year that the budget has exceeded \$1 million.

-30-

Monroe Swilley Named
Atlanta College Head

(11-26-68)

ATLANTA (BP)--Monroe F. Swilley Jr. has resigned after more than 23 years as pastor of Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church to become president of Atlanta Baptist College, effective Jan. 1.

Swilley has been chairman of trustees for the college since the school campaign began 14 years ago and has been acting president for two years.

The school opened in September with 24 faculty members. Current enrollment is 282 students. The college owns 560 acres of land and four buildings in northeast Atlanta.

A native of El Dorado, Ark., Swilley went to Second-Ponce de Leon from First Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark. He had previously served South Avondale Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has done special studies at Union Theological Seminary. He holds honorary degrees from Ouachita and from Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Swilley has been moderator of the Atlanta association, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, president of the Christian Counsel of Metropolitan Atlanta and has served on numerous Georgia and Southern Baptist committees. He has also held many civic positions in the Atlanta area.

Mrs. Swilley is the former Martha Snuggs of El Dorado. Dr. and Mrs. Swilley have three children.

-30-

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Watts Burns Again:
This Time For Christ

by James Evans McReynolds*

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (BP)--Amazement staggered messengers of the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association as they listened to the report of the Watts Vacation Bible Schools for 1968.

Students from the University of Southern California, University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), California Baptist College, and summer missionaries from various colleges teamed up to conduct 82 schools with nearly 7,000 children enrolled.

The students held Bible school in garages, living rooms, parks, school grounds, and store fronts, as well as church buildings.

During the summer 564 children made professions of faith in Christ and 153 others made other decisions.

"This ministry has helped bridge the gap between white and black communities, and has created better understanding. It has opened the way for more fellowship between the National (Negro) and Southern Baptist Conventions," said W. A. Burkey, associational missionary, Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association.

"The students told us a lot by their actions," added E. V. Hill, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. "They lived with us, ate our food, and comforted our children. Our people came to know they were for real. Our people helped by teaching classes in the Bible schools, preparing snacks, and helping to clean up after the school was completed.

"Whereas our children were hesitant toward whites, these students taught them to love and respect white people," Hill said.

According to the Los Angeles missionary, "Students began this project in the summer of 1966. Volunteering their time and energy, some of the students are enrolled in summer school, while others live in Los Angeles during the summer vacation specifically to serve in our Bible school program.

"That first year the project had six schools with about 900 enrolled. In 1967 there were 48 schools with about 4,000 enrolled. This past year was successful beyond anticipation.

"Baptist students from the University of Southern California and UCLA work in the Watts area year round in a tutorial program, so the people there know we're interested in them, not just for a summer Vacation Bible school, but all the time," Burkey said.

"The purpose of the tutorial project is to provide remedial help for children who need motivation and encouragement to catch up in school. By his personal attention, the tutor can help the child learn to read for enjoyment, thus forming a link between the school and the home," Miss Karen Carver, Baptist Student Union council member at the University of Southern California, said.

"The project helps us learn about a culture and environment distinctly different from our own. The student acts as a member of the community rather than limiting himself to the university campus," she added.

Watts indeed is burning again. From freeway to freeway the ministry of concerned students proclaims the message of the good news that God is alive, and that He really cares.

-30-

*James Evans McReynolds is information specialist in the office of public relations, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Chaplain Appointed
For Georgia Resort

(11-26-68)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Baptist chaplain has been appointed to develop a new ministry in the Jekyll Island resort area of Georgia.

Charles D. Miller, a native of Kentucky, will develop ministries in trailer parks, summer resort groups, and other areas as pastor of the Jekyll Island Baptist Mission.

-more-

The new ministry will be sponsored by the Jekyll Island Mission, the First Baptist Church of Brunswick, and the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Miller, a Kentucky native, has been assistant pastor, West End Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., since 1966. A graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky, Miller is married and has three children.

-30-

Alaska Names Alabaman
As New WMU Secretary

(11-26-68)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)--The Alaska Baptist Convention Executive Board has named Miss Judy Rice of Birmingham, Ala., as the state Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive secretary, effective Dec. 1.

Miss Rice, a former US-2 worker in Portland, Ore., for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, succeeds Louise Yarbrough who is now a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition to her former work as a US-2 missions volunteer, Miss Rice twice served as a student summer missionary in the Northwest--Idaho in 1964, and Washington in 1965. She is a graduate of Howard University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

-30-

Southern Baptists Add 513
Training Unions in One Year

(11-26-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist churches established 513 new Training Unions from October, 1967, through September, 1968, according to Philip B. Harris, secretary, Church Training department of the denomination's Sunday School Board.

Harris said, "The number of new Training Unions increased over the previous year by a few more than one hundred. This seems to indicate that a larger number of churches are realizing the urgent need for training."

Some of the churches with new programs began with only one type of training, Harris said. These included church member orientation, a continuous program using unions and departments, or short-term studies of special units.

-30-

Baptist Historical Worker
Finds Old Money in Minutes

(11-26-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Officials of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission here, who long have preached that "old records are valuable and should be treasured," discovered just how valuable they might be recently.

While Mrs. Reba McMahon of the commission staff was checking some old Baptist associational minutes from Georgia, out fell two over-size U. S. currency bills--a \$10 and a \$5 bill of an old issue sometimes called "saddle blanket money."

Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the commission, speculated that some church might have sent \$15 to the association for minutes, and the clerk-treasurer of the association might have failed to make record of having received the money.

The minutes containing the old money were purchased along with other materials in a Georgia collection some time ago, and had been handled by at least three other persons on the commission's staff before the bills were discovered.

Unfortunately, agents have offered very little for the bills because they are not in very good condition and seem not to be very rare. The commission is retaining the two old bills as keepsakes.

-30-

Scientist Gives Microbiology
Lab To Baptist University

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Dr. John H. Brewer, a retired scientist here with an international reputation, has donated a microbiological laboratory to Hardin-Simmons University.

A graduate of the Baptist school here, Dr. Brewer presently works in the area of sterilization of U. S. space craft, as director of research for Becton, Dickson and Co., and as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency committee on radiation sterilization.

Last year he lectured in Stockholm, Sweden, during the annual Nobel prize week at the invitation of the Swedish Microbiological Society.

Hardin-Simmons President Elwin Skiles announced that Dr. Brewer will retire to Lake Brownwood not far from Abilene, and will be special lecturer and researcher for Hardin-Simmons.

-30-

Seminary Names New
Catalogue Librarian

(11-26-68)

WAKE FOREST, N.C.(BP)--Miss Elizabeth (Betty) Anne Smith, daughter of missionary parents to the Congo now living in Richmond, Va., has been named catalogue librarian at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Miss Smith has been catalogue librarian of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif.; the University of Georgia, Athens; Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va.; and the seminary library of University of Dubuque, Iowa.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY 80
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

RECEIVED
NOV 27 1968
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC