



BAPTIST PRESS
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February 25, 1969

25,000 Prayer Partners
Paired In Crusade Effort

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--More than 25,000 prayer partners--this is the result of Pact, an effort to bind Baptists of the Western Hemisphere together in prayer support for the Crusade of the Americas.

Applications for prayer partners have been flowing into the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union headquarters here for a year. The final count of applicants when the last cards were matched was 50,230.

Mrs. R. L. Mathis, Pact coordinator, reported that the applications represented 2,621 churches, 8,277 groups (such as Sunday School classes and Woman's Missionary Union groups), 7,846 families, and 31,486 individuals.

She said there is no way to estimate the number of individuals participating with their churches, organizations, groups and families.

Pact partners are from 49 of the 50 United States, 27 other North and South American countries, 24 APO addresses (mostly servicemen and government workers abroad), Ghana, Japan, Lebanon, England and Okinawa.

"Now that the technicalities of forming partnerships are over, the important work of praying is underway," said Mrs. Mathis, a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and director of the promotion division for WMU.

"We hope that every effort of the Crusade of the Americas will be strengthened by concerted prayer, even though partners may be separated by distance and language," she continued. "Their hopes and prayers during the crusade will be identical."

Mrs. Mathis outlined several activities for Pact partners during the crusade. First is to pray daily according to the crusade calendar in a leaflet distributed to all partners, and available on request to persons without partners from the WMU office at 600 North 20th Street here.

Partners are also encouraged to correspond with each other, even if they do not understand each others' language. "They can share prayer requests and crusade plans," Mrs. Mathis said.

A man in Mexico is typical of several persons who asked the Pact office for help in urging such correspondence. "I still do not understand why my partner has not written, but I continue to pray for her, her church, for her parents and for the crusade," he wrote.

Deadline for applying for a Pact partner was to have been Dec. 31, 1968, Because the mail kept on coming, Pact personnel continued to assign partnerships through Feb. 9.

A Sunday School class that missed the deadline wrote: "Since we can't have a prayer partner from somewhere else, we are choosing each other for partners."

Mrs. Mathis said she would like to pass on this suggestion to others who are too late in requesting partners. She said anyone can participate in Pact simply by praying for the crusade in private with the partner or in his church. The Pact leaflet is available to any who desire it, she added.

Mrs. E. O. Fowler, secretary to Mrs. Mathis and chief Pact clerk estimated that 150 Pact assignments have been returned marked addressee unknown or moved. Persons who have applied but not received a partner by this date should write the Pact office right away, she said.

Howell Named Pastor
Of Washington Church

WASHINGTON (BP)--John E. Howell, pastor of Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta for three years, has been named pastor of the historic First Baptist Church of Washington, D. C.

Howell will succeed Edward Hughes Pruden, who is retiring after 32 years at the church just a few blocks from the White House. The church, organized in 1802, includes many government leaders in its membership.

Howell's resignation from the Atlanta church is effective about April 1. Before going to the Atlanta church three years ago, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, DeLand, Fla.

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Second Nursery Helps Wives
At Seminary To Communicate

(2-25-69)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Wives of ministerial students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here faced a perplexing dilemma here until recently.

The dilemma: How to catch the spirit and lingo of their husband's theological education when they are not able to attend classes because they must stay at home with their pre-school children.

This was the plight of several wives at the seminary until the seminary woman's committee, headed by Mrs. Ellis A. Fuller Sr., came to their rescue.

A nursery was opened through the efforts of the committee in the basement of Fuller Hall, an area which was then being used for storage space.

The Fuller Hall basement once was used as a nursery, but it was converted to storage space when a kindergarten-nursery was opened at Seminary Village, the married student apartments located three miles from the main campus.

The Seminary Village facilities proved inadequate for many of the families, however, because of lack of transportation and the limited enrollment at the village.

The woman's committee asked Mrs. Wayne Dehoney, wife of the pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church here, to head the project to open up the new nursery in Fuller Hall.

Funds were raised, the woman's committee provided toys, and the seminary furnished basic play equipment and opened several rooms in the Fuller Hall basement.

Once again the walls began to reverberate with the laughter, patter and chatter of tiny tots.

Director of the nursery is Mrs. Robbie Shaw, a graduate of Eastern Washington State University with a major in education. She also is former nursery coordinator at Beechmont Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Several wives have reported an opening of communications on a new level with their husbands while attending classes," Mrs. Shaw said.

"They now understand what the men are doing (and thinking), and the fathers are pleased with the results," she added.

The nursery is normally open only during classes and chapel hours in the mornings Tuesday through Friday. Members of the St. Matthews Baptist Church Woman's Missionary Union volunteered to staff the nursery during the past semester.

The dean of students at the seminary, Peyton Thurman, said the new Fuller Hall nursery "is an example of our efforts to enable all students to participate more fully in the life of the seminary community."

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Room Requests Heavy
For SBC in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Requests for hotel-motel rooms in New Orleans for the Southern Baptist Convention are running extremely heavy, the chairman of the convention's housing committee reported here.

Already, nearly 6,000 requests for rooms have been processed by the housing bureau, said G. Avery Lee, pastor of the St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church here.

Lee requested Southern Baptists who already have sent in their room applications to "please be patient" if the request had not yet been confirmed. He explained that the housing bureau had been flooded with requests, and was processing several hundred requests daily.

For those who plan to attend the convention but have not yet sent in a request, Lee urged such persons to do so immediately by writing the SBC Housing Bureau, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, La., 70130.

It is imperative to give the following specific information, he said: Date of arrival and departure, type of accommodation, names of occupants. "Not to do so will delay your confirmation," Lee said.

He cautioned against telephoning the housing bureau, explaining that one phone call takes as much time to process as ten written requests.

The housing committee chairman said that 28 hotels and motels are already filled in New Orleans during the week of the convention, June 10-13, so late applicants may not get the place of their choice.

Some additional rooms have been available, however, and three new hotels are scheduled to open in time for the convention, he said. There are no rooms in private homes at this point, Lee added.

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SBC Leads In American
Bible Society Support

(2-25-69)

NEW YORK (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention led all other denominations in support of the work of the American Bible Society during 1968, Bible Society officials said here.

The 11.3 million member Southern Baptist Convention and its churches contributed \$222,937 to the work of the American Bible Society during 1968, according to a report from Roy Madsen, director of church relations for the Bible Society.

Southern Baptist contributions increased \$4,428 over the \$218,509 contributed during the previous year.

While SBC contributions were up, total gifts from the list of 74 different church bodies and denominations decreased by \$101,675, Madsen reported.

The total contributions for all churches was \$1,312,615 for 1968, compared to \$1,414,615 during 1967.

Southern Baptist contributions, with gifts coming from 5,541 different churches and donors, accounted for 35.6 percent of the total contributions to the American Bible Society.

The Methodist Church ranked second in the amount contributed, with total gifts of \$151,671 from 1,511 donors, and the United Presbyterian Church was a close third with \$141,079 from 805 donors.

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Grey Elected President
Of City Crime Commission

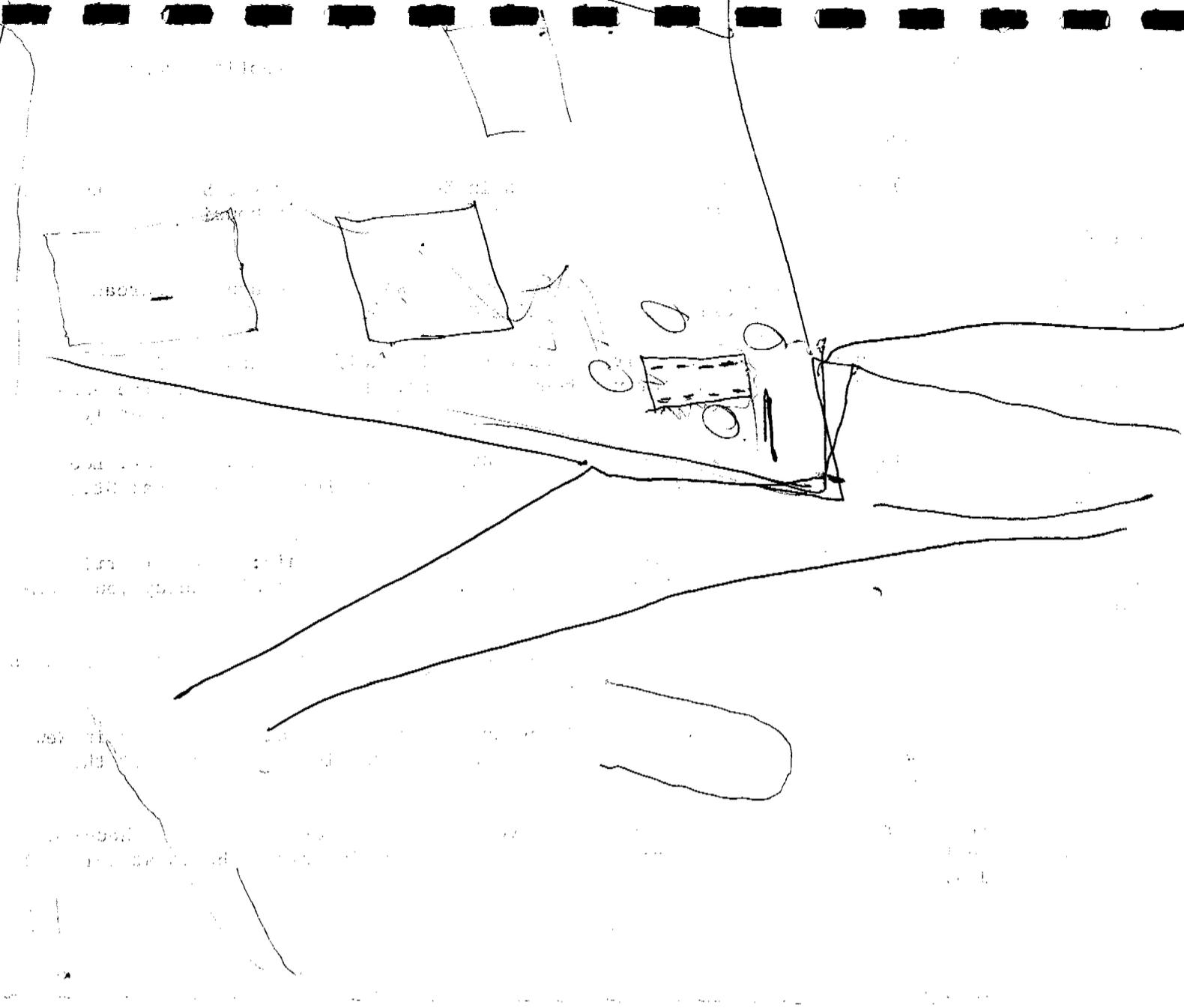
(2-25-69)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, J. D. Grey, has been re-elected president of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission.

Grey, pastor of the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, will head an influential group of New Orleans citizens in the organization which refers to itself as a "watchdog" group "primarily interested in attaining and maintaining a crime-free, corruption-free New Orleans."

Last year Grey was elected president of the commission, becoming the first minister ever to serve as its leader. Grey was also named by the governor as a member of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice last year.

Grey has been pastor of the First Baptist Church here for 32 years.



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