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April 23, 1969

First Negro Baptized
By New Orleans Church

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A Negro woman whose husband is a serviceman in Vietnam has joined Temple Baptist Church just three blocks from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here after being led to Christ by a seminary student.

Mrs. Leontine Tucker is believed to be the first Negro to be baptized by a Southern Baptist church in the city of New Orleans, said Charles D. Anderson, pastor of the church and a student at New Orleans seminary.

Anderson said that Mrs. Tucker was led to accept Christ in her home as a result of a church census of the community and a subsequent visit to her home by Ellis Hardwick, a student at the seminary and a foreign missions volunteer.

When Mrs. Tucker came forward after the church extended an invitation for those present to make decisions for Christ, the pastor asked both Anderson, a physical therapist, and Mrs. Tucker to share the experience of Hardwick's visit in her home and her meeting and accepting Christ.

"When she did so, everyone present was obviously moved by the sincerity of her testimony," Anderson said. "When this new convert was presented to the church, the vote was unanimous that she be received."

"Since that time, Mrs. Tucker has participated in all the activities of the church family," Anderson added. "She has become one of us and has been made welcome by all who attend our services, and we have received many expressions of encouragement and of thanksgiving from fellow Christians.

"We thank God for the opportunity to see a group of Christians show that Christ is the true point of integration," Anderson said. "This integration is not simply a racial one but is truly a spiritual matter."

The pastor added that the church did not expect all of the Negro people in the vicinity to "run to our fellowship any more than we expect those of any race to come in this manner." He added that those who are serious about following Christ are not concerned with false barriers.

Anderson quipped that while some people (not those in his church) have expressed fears that they might be left with a building debt or no building if they attempt integration, he felt personally that if this happened it would set the church back centuries to the time there were no church buildings and "the only thing Christians had going for them was the good news of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit."

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Historical Commission Votes
To Supplement Encyclopedia

4/23/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention voted unanimously here to join Broadman Press in publishing a third and supplementary volume of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists.

The third volume will up-date and supplement the two-volume encyclopedia first published in 1958, said Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the Historical Commission.

It will "be a comprehensive history of the convention over the past 12 years, including biographical information on denominational leaders who have died since 1956, and any information omitted in the first two volumes," said Woolley.

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Volume three would include all the historical and developmental information about the convention, its agencies, and the state conventions and their agencies since 1956.

The first two volumes of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists as published in 1958 included nearly 4,350 articles by nearly 900 writers, covering in detail Baptist work, distinctives, history, personalities, doctrine, controversies and crises, information on other religious groups, and histories of Baptist organizations.

It is now in its fourth printing, but no major revisions have been made in the encyclopedia. There have been some corrections and changes made in the second and third editions, but few in the fourth.

The commission decided here it would be better to prepare a supplemental volume to the encyclopedia covering the period since the first volumes were published than to completely revise the present volumes because "to revise completely the present two volumes would be a major undertaking involving the resetting of the entire two volumes."

The third volume will be produced under a cooperative venture with Broadman Press, publishing arm of the SBC Sunday School Board, and each of the SBC agencies involved.

Woolley said the commission hopes to secure the manuscripts in time to release the third volume during 1971.

The new volume will use the same format, paper, type, binding, etc., as the first two volumes, and will be about 450 to 500 pages in length. There will be a pre-publication and post-publication prices for both the third volume alone, and for all three volumes.

The commission voted to create an eight-member editorial committee which would select a managing editor, assign space allocations to Baptist agencies, enlist writers for general articles, procure monographs not relating to SBC organizations, selecting the topics for assignments, etc.

The editorial committee would also work with a general encyclopedia committee composed of representatives from each SBC agency and state convention. The two committees would give approval of the final manuscript to be submitted to Broadman Press.

The general encyclopedia committee would be responsible for selecting writers and assigning topics for articles relating to SBC agencies and state conventions, setting copy deadlines, editing for content, and keeping assignments on schedules.

Final editing would be done by Broadman Press which also would handle pre-publication publicity and sales. Broadman Press would also develop a style guide to be followed by writers, possibly using the same style guide developed for the previous encyclopedia.

Woolley said the decision by the commission to publish the supplemental volume was one of the most significant actions it had taken in recent years.



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NEW SBC AGENCY HEAD--Raymond Rigdon, editorial consultant in the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been elected director of the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention. Rigdon, a Training Union official for 20 years, succeeds Ralph A. Herring who retired in December. (BP) Photo.

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