

April 24, 1950

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE ADDS  
THOUSANDS TO S.B.C. CHURCHES

DALLAS, Tex.—(BP)—The largest baptismal service ever engaged in by Baptists was held Sunday afternoon, April 23, according to Dr. C. E. Matthews, secretary of the Department of Evangelism of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The occasion was for many Southern Baptist churches the closing service of two weeks of intensive revival effort. More than 6000 Baptist churches west of the Mississippi River participated in the simultaneous crusade. Thousands of new believers were baptized.

The 1950 Western Evangelistic Crusade, with more than 2,000,000 Baptists participating, began April 9 after months of prayer and planning by Convention-wide, state, associational, and local church leaders. Dr. Matthews was leader of the movement. Many of the visiting preachers were from churches east of the Mississippi.

Total visible results of the Crusade will not be known until church, associational, and state leaders can tabulate and report them. Judging from the results based on associational-wide evangelistic crusades over the past three years, this western crusade should bring into the churches between 100,000 and 125,000 members on profession of faith, Dr. Matthews said. The average has been 20 baptisms per church.

"Our objective goes further than just adding members to the church," commented Dr. Matthews. "We are driving for a spiritual awakening in this world that will affect the moral, spiritual, political, and economic life of our nation. We are driving for something further and deeper than additions to church membership."

Dr. Matthews said the Baptists of Louisiana report the greatest spiritual awakening in history. First Church, Houston, had 105 additions the first week; First Church, Wichita Falls, 120. The Houston Association, with 87 churches participating had more than 2000 additions through Thursday night of the second week. New Orleans reported 542 additions in 37 churches the first week. Fort Worth reported 993. Five hundred forty-two churches in 34 associations in Oklahoma reported 4950 additions, 3250 by baptism, at the close of the first week.

The following telegrams were received at various dates during the campaign:

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Alexandria, La., April 17 — Eight churches reporting, 75 letter, 79 baptism, eight Negro churches participating.

Little Rock, Ark., April 19 — 54 churches in Pulaski County simultaneous revival campaign, 573 additions by baptism, 264 additions by letter during first week.

Oklahoma City, April 17 — 56 white, 16 Negro, 12 mission, 675 baptism, 398 letter.

Jefferson City, Mo., April 18 — 30 churches, 120 baptisms, 53 letter, seven otherwise.

Long Beach, Calif., April 18 — Los Angeles Baptist Association first week 43 churches, 221 baptisms, 142 letter, 76 statement.

Dallas, Tex., April 18 — Dallas Association has 94 churches in Crusade, 43 reporting 397 for baptism, 376 other additions. Fifty Negro churches have had 250 additions.

Throughout the entire Southern Baptist Convention territory Baptists assembled in houses of worship at 2:30, CST, April 23 and participated in the evangelistic service broadcast of the Southern Baptist Hour. Congregations sang with the Baptist Hour choir and listened to the message of Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, radio speaker for April, May, and June. At the close of the message the congregations stood as the local pastors and leaders received new members. It is estimated that several thousand responded as Dr. McCall pleaded by radio for decisions.

Attention of Southern Baptists is now turned toward a similar crusade to be conducted in 15,158 churches east of the Mississippi, March 25 to April 8, 1951.

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DR. M. E. DODD REPEATS FIRST  
SERMON ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HUMBOLDT, Tenn.—(BP)—Dr. M. E. Dodd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., returned recently to Brazil Baptist Church here to preach where he began his ministry exactly 50 years ago. Several persons who heard his first message were present.

Dr. Dodd's anniversary subject was the same as the one he used 50 years ago: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." He preached at 11:00 a.m. — exactly the hour of his first sermon.

Dr. Dodd has circled the globe four times preaching in countries in many parts of the world. He travels chiefly by air and has flown more than 400,000 miles.

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DR. LEAVELL RECOVERED

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(BP)—Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has resumed his duties after a rather severe illness. He expects to preside at the Seminary's commencement and to attend the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago.

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PASTORS' CONFERENCE WILL  
DISCUSS CHRIST THE ANSWER

SHREVEPORT, La.--(BP)--The annual Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held in the Coliseum, Chicago, May 9, 1950, according to announcement by Dr. M. E. Dodd, chairman. The program follows:

Morning Session

- 9:30 - Sing and Pray and Pray and Sing - Robert Guy, Ridgecrest
- 9:45 - The Scriptures and Prayer - J. G. Harris, Arkansas
- 9:50 - Preliminary Remarks  
Special Music
- 10:00 - "Christ the Answer to Pastoral Problems"--  
W. R. Pettigrew, Kentucky
- 10:30 - "Christ the Answer to Church Problems"--  
W. Herschel Ford, Texas
- 11:00 - The Offering, Announcements, Introductions, Music
- 11:15 - "Christ the Answer to Denominational Problems"--  
John M. Wright, Texas
- 11:45 - Open Session--Questions and Answers

Afternoon Session

- 2:15 - Sing and Pray - Robert Guy, Ridgecrest
- 2:25 - The Scriptures and Prayer - Fred Wood, Tennessee
- 2:30 - "Christ the Answer to Race Problems"--  
Monroe F. Swilley, Jr., Georgia
- 3:00 - "Christ the Answer to Labor Problems"--  
James L. Sullivan, Tennessee
- 3:30 - "Christ the Answer to Political Problems"--  
W. Landon Miller, Mississippi
- 4:00 - Open Session--Questions and Answers

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BRING YOUR WRAPS TO CHICAGO!

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Reminding southerners that the weather in Chicago may be considerably cooler than what they are accustomed to, Mrs. Noel M. Taylor, publicity chairman for the W.M.U. Convention, asks that the women bring suitable clothing. "We fear that those accustomed to warm weather in the extreme south will not realize the coolness coming off Lake Michigan," she said. "Winter clothes will be comfortable and certainly nothing lighter than heavy spring clothes will be needed."

Mrs. Taylor further advises that the registration desk for the W.M.U. Convention will be located in the basement of Medinah Temple. "This advance information will assist in less congestion at the entrance of the Temple. Signs pointing to this location will be obvious in the Temple entrance."