

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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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**Baptist Church Opens Crash  
Program When Schools Closed**

PULASKI, Tenn. (BP)--Highland Baptist Church here came to the aid of working parents with children in elementary schools after all public schools in Giles County were closed following a financial crisis.

Phillip Pitt, pastor of the church, said that the church started the emergency day care center as "a service to the community, and especially to the children whose parents work."

The crash program, conceived on Thursday and started on the following Monday, provides educational and recreational activities for children in grades one through six whose parents are both employed. Classes start at 6:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. daily.

Pitt said that during the first week, 35 children enrolled in the program, which is being led by both members of the church and about four public school teachers who have volunteered their services to teach the children.

Pitt added that the church was not trying to provide a full, accredited education program, but only trying to help the children whose parents work and could not care for them at home.

The pastor was also careful to point out that the project was not an endorsement of the closing of the schools; nor was the church taking a stand on the complex political issue surrounding the whole controversy.

All public schools in Giles County were closed in late October after the state education commissioner cut off state funds because the quality of education and physical facilities did not meet minimum state standards. The commissioner used the word "deplorable" to describe the schools in the county.

Earlier, the state had recommended several steps toward improving the school system, and the county school board has recommended a \$2.9 million bond issue to finance the improvements.

The county magistrates, however, declined to approve the bond issue, and refused to work out several compromises. So the state commissioner cut off state funds to the schools.

Part of the problem stems from the state's proposal to consolidate six county high schools, some with enrollments of less than 100 students and curricula that does not compete with larger high schools in the state. Many of the local residents are opposed to a consolidated school.

Pitt said that the members of his church were about evenly divided over the whole issue, but that they were overwhelmingly in favor of helping the parents and children who were the victims of the schools being closed.

The response, said Pitt, has been overwhelming.

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**Billie Pate Named New  
Youth Magazine Editor**

10/30/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--Billie Pate, director of field services for the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, Birmingham, has been named editor of youth materials in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, effective Nov. 10.

Miss Pate's areas of responsibility will include the editing of Event, a new leisure magazine for youth, and editing of Youth Leadership, a quarterly magazine for Sunday School youth workers.

A native Tennessean, Miss Pate is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and received a master of religious education degree from the Carver School of Missions of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

She is the author of Bonanza South, a home missions study book.

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New York Baptists Face  
Dense Population Area

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP)--Southern Baptists in New York state and surrounding area face a challenge.

Starting in January, the Baptist Convention of New York becomes the smallest and youngest state-level convention in the Southern Baptist Convention. Yet it will be attempting to reach the nation's largest concentration of people.

A recent study by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board survey and special studies department indicates that some 23.8 million people live within the boundaries of the new convention.

The convention includes all of New York state and the northern half of New Jersey, an area projected by this study to gain almost six million more people by 1985.

Five districts comprise the convention, the least populous of which is the Albany (N.Y.) District with 1.5 million people. The New York City District, with 12 million, is the largest.

Some 800,000 students and a diverse group of cultures are included in the convention. The Puerto Rican population is over one million in New York alone. Chinese and Indian are the next largest nonwhite groups.

According to the study, the entire region is predominately Roman Catholic, especially in the densely populated urban areas. In certain rural sections, Protestants are a majority.

Roman Catholic membership in percentage of population has grown rapidly during the past century, while Protestant membership has declined, the study revealed.

Methodist and Presbyterian denominations, however, have been increasing slightly as American Baptist and Episcopal denominations were shrinking in number.

Southern Baptists had 57 organized churches in 1968 in this region, with a total membership of 9,040 and a resident membership of 7,217. The convention was constituted in September, however, with 70 churches 27 chapels and 10,139 members.

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Miami Baptist Association  
Admits Negro Congregation

10/30/69

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--The Miami Baptist Association, 72 years after it was organized, admitted an all Negro church. The association voted unanimously to seat messengers from the Glendale Baptist Church of Richmond Heights.

"This will help the relationship of black and white as a whole," said Joseph Coates, pastors of the church. "It will point out that we can work together as brothers."

The 200 member church began using Southern Baptist literature and training materials two years ago. The pastor said the church hopes to build new quarters at a new site in about four months.

Though it was the first all-black church to join the association, about 20 predominately white churches within the fellowship have Negro members, and one church (Seventy-ninth Street Baptist Church) has a 40 per cent Negro membership, said J. Ray Dobbins, superintendent of missions for the association.

Just 11 years ago, the Central Baptist Church and two churches of other denominations in Miami received bomb threats after Negroes worshipped there.

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