



BAPTIST PRESS

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February 26, 1970

Texas Church Revival Results In 708 Professions of Faith

IRVING, Tex. (BP)--A comprehensive follow-up campaign aided by a computerized record system is underway at Plymouth Park Baptist Church here following a revival which resulted in 708 professions of faith during one week.

Texas and Southern Baptist Convention evangelism leaders have indicated this was the largest number of professions of faith in a one-week, local church revival they could recall. There is no statistical data to indicate, however, if it is a record number.

Most of the decisions were made by teenagers, according to Don Dyer, pastor of the 2,500-member church in the Dallas suburb.

In addition to the 708 professions of faith, the revival resulted in 21 additions to the church by letter and 151 rededications.

"I credit much of the foundation for this revival to our youth who tirelessly witnessed to their friends during the week," Dyer said. "Only a handful of the converts were under 10 years of age."

Focal point of the witnessing effort was the church's 175 member religious-folk music group, The New Hope Singers, who spearheaded witnessing activities in local secondary schools.

The group was led by Dennis Baw, the church's minister of youth and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Evangelist James Robison of Hurst, Tex., a youthful preacher, spoke in local high schools and junior high schools during the week. Though he did not deliver evangelistic messages at the school auditoriums, he did attract many young people to the church services and gave the church young people at the schools easy opportunity to witness, Baw said.

Robison said he spoke to more than 8,000 teenagers in the schools. "This is the greatest single church crusade I have ever been associated with," he said. "It has had more than twice the visible results and I also think it's one of the deepest spiritually."

Records of the decisions were analyzed by computer, revealing that 247 of the 807 converts desired baptism and membership in the Plymouth Park Church. A total of 314 listed other churches in the city. The remaining 127 will be contacted in a follow-up campaign, church officials said.

The computer read-out on the 127 persons who did not indicated plans to join a church will include name, address, a code indicating the name of their counselor, a deacon, and a Sunday School teacher.

The churches listed by the 314 will be sent a list of those professions of faith of interest to them. In each case, a letter will be sent to every person who made a decision.

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Jacksonville SBC Hospital
Executive Resigns Post

2/26/70

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Lawrence Payne, first administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital here and consultant to the board of trustees for Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., has resigned to join a computer firm in Dallas.

Payne, effective April 1, will become vice president for hospital relations with National Data Communications, Inc. The company includes a subsidiary corporation, the REACH Corp., which has designed and developed a computer controlled communications system for hospitals.

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Baptist Memorial Hospital is one of two institutions operated by Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Just one week before announcement of Payne's resignation, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee voted to appoint a committee to work with a committee of hospital trustees to plan a proposal whereby the two hospitals would sever relations with the SBC and become private institutions with self-perpetuating boards.

Payne became the first administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital in 1954, a year before the institution opened its doors, Sept. 13, 1955. He was administrator until 1965 when became director of development and expansion, coordinating the hospital's \$30 million expansion program.

With planning completed and the expansion program well underway, he was appointed consultant to the board of trustees in 1969.

A native of Texas, Payne was associated with two Texas Baptist hospitals before coming to Florida. He was administrator of Hillcrest Hospital (Baptist), Waco, Tex., and Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas. He has also been associated with the East Texas Hospital Foundation and the Medical Center Hospital in Tyler, Tex.

He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and was reared in Dallas. He spent several years in banking and industry before going to the hospital field.



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