

September 25, 1950

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

ALABAMA BAPTISTS TO MEET
AT DECATUR NOV. 14-16

DECATUR, Ala.--(BP)--Baptists of Alabama are making preparations for their 129th annual session at the Central Baptist Church here, November 14-16. Uppermost in the convention's planning will be the simultaneous evangelistic campaign in all the 2700 churches of the state in connection with the Eastern Evangelistic Crusade, March 25-April 8. Dr. V. L. Wyatt, Montgomery, is in charge of advance preparation and organization for the revivals. Dr. A. H. Reid is state mission secretary.

Dr. Henry Allen Parker, Dothan, is scheduled to preach the convention sermon, with Dr. Leon Macon, editor of the state paper, as alternate. Reports will be heard from all departments of the state work. Dr. B. Locke Davis, Anniston, is program chairman.

Central Church, Decatur, was host to the convention ten years ago.

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REPORTS INDICATE EIGHT TO TEN
PER CENT INCREASE IN BAPTISMS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Baptisms in Southern Baptist churches during the 1950 church year will show an eight to ten per cent increase over last year, according to Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Mr. Routh is basing his estimation on reports from 210 associations which have already reached his office.

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NEW PASTOR HAS BIG DAY

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss.--(BP)--Robert Wooddy, new pastor of the Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church here, welcomed 104 new members into the fellowship of the church at the close of his first service with the church. It was join-the-church Sunday for Blue Mountain College students.

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NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS PLAN
FOR BUSY CONVENTION SESSIONS

RALEIGH, N. C.—(BP)—When the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meets in Durham, November 14-16, report will be made as to progress in raising \$700,000 for the new wing to the Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem to take the place of a similar amount offered by the government under the Hill-Burton Bill, according to Dr. L. L. Carpenter, editor the Biblical Recorder, state Baptist paper. It is the prediction of M. A. Huggins, state secretary-treasurer, that the report will show they are far on the way to complete victory.

A special committee of 21, authorized at the called session of the convention held in Charlotte, April 27, will make a report as to further study on the application of the principle of separation of church and state to the convention's institutions, available resources for state Baptist work, and whether any part of the present constitution should be changed.

Major attention at the meeting will be given to the Medical Center in Winston-Salem, including the hospital and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and to the removal of Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem to allow the establishment by Southern Baptists of the new Southeastern Seminary on the old Wake Forest campus.

Because of an expanded summer assembly program and other projects, including the hospital, the convention will face the problem of debt and how to meet its obligations with present available resources. The special committee is also making a study of this.

Dr. F. Orion Mixon, pastor of the Tabernacle Church, Raleigh, is president of the convention and the Hon. C. B. Deane, member of Congress, is recording secretary.

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PROFESSOR SHANGHAI BAPTIST SEMINARY
CONFIDENT CHRISTIANITY WILL SURVIVE

BERKELEY, Calif.—(BP)—Seven Southern Baptist missionaries, returning from communist China, arrived in San Francisco on the President Cleveland September 17. They were met by a welcome party of students and faculty members from Golden Gate Seminary here. The missionaries are Dr. and Mrs. Buford L. Nichols (and son, David) Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Morris, Miss Inabelle Coleman, Mr. Stockwell Sears, and Miss Gladys Hopewell.

Speaking in chapel services at the Berkeley seminary on September 19, Dr. Nichols, professor in the China Baptist Theological Seminary in Shanghai, said, "The church houses in China are full and overflowing, and our churches there have a determination to carry on for Christ. Our Christian forces face many difficulties in China, but out of chaos will come order that will be a blessing to humanity and a glory to Christ. I am confident th work will go on."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Duke K. McCall (Nashville, Tenn.) and Dr. W. A. Criswell (Dallas, Texas) are on a special mission to various existing and prospective Southern Baptist mission fields of the world. Following is one of Dr. McCall's reports from Ogbomosho, Nigeria:

LEPERS FIND LIFE

By

Duke K. McCall
Executive Secretary
Southern Baptist Convention
Executive Committee

Today I visited a leper colony. It was hard on my stomach but good for my appreciation of missionaries.

Dr. Robert Goldie took me to see his 700 patients. The treatment room looks like a rain shelter on a golf course instead of a hospital. There was so little equipment that I was embarrassed. I could not share the good doctor's enthusiasm.

The face of the school girl waiting to be admitted would make good material for a nightmare. She had been sent to the Baptist leper colony by a mission of another denomination in order to get her away from home. There is too much work to be done here for the various denominations to bother much about who does it. Winning people to a particular church takes a poor second place to winning them to Christ.

In the shops men without feet wove baskets. Men without fingers carried the loads.

There are no hospital rooms or wards. The patients build mud houses for themselves. Those who are able work in the fields. They prepare their own food on the ground.

The more the doctor showed me the worse I felt. Then it happened.

In the woman's compound was a little boy about three years old. He was dressed in an old shirt some European had discarded. He wrapped himself in his shirt as though it was a chief's robe. After all, he was the only child with anything to wear. Africans do not use clothing for modesty's sake nor for warmth most of the year. Clothes are just decorations which may be put in a safe place if it rains. The little boy's pride and dignity made me ask about him.

A British government officer had found him lying by the side of the road. His parents had guessed that an ugly sore was leprosy. They were right. The officer brought the starved lad to the leper colony.

There was no question in the doctor's mind about taking in the child. The gift of a cup of cold water to a little child in Jesus' name is one of the proofs of a Christian. The problem was finding some African woman to care for a leprous child.

They found such a woman. I met her and my enthusiasm for the leper colony soared to match that of the doctor. Her face was all smiles. There was a spring in her step.

Proudly she showed me the long scare on her right arm and shoulder. There was, however, no open leprous wound. She was almost cured. In gratitude for what the doctor's injections had done for her, she had offered to care for Goldie, the little boy whom she had given the doctor's name.

By American standards the leper colony at Oghomosbo is not much. It is all the physician who is investing in it his talent and his life can build with the gifts of American Christians. The important thing is that the sick are healed, the hopeless find hope, the "unclean" find friends. I am proud of that leper colony.

The Christ who cleaned lepers on the dusty roadside in Galilee long ago is still doing business through his followers today.

I used to think missionaries spent their time making speeches to crowds of eager natives. The missionaries I have met here spend their time designing and building

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schools and hospitals. Not a single missionary is pastor of a church. They are school superintendents, nurses, farm supervisors, and orphanage attendants.

The Africans are pastors of the churches now. They and many of the members were trained in the schools, rescued in the orphanage, or healed in the hospital. Now they lead and the missionaries serve.

The set-up is rough on the missionaries. The rising tide of nationalism has created resentment against all non-Africans.

Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church in the United States went to Ibadan to preach on Sunday. The African pastor announced he had decided to preach himself. The white preacher sat in the pew and listened to a sermon in a foreign language.

This incident does not accurately represent the attitude of most of the Africans. It does indicate who determines the policies of the churches. Most of the 2,500 Africans shook their heads in dismay when a missionary speaker called for them to assume leadership responsibility because, as in China now, the day may come there will be no more missionaries in Nigeria. The missionaries have no authority over the natives except that which love provides. There has been much service in the past, so there is much love.