

TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP WEEK
PROMOTION GETS UNDER WAY

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The state secretaries and editors of the Southern Baptist Convention are steadily leading the churches and pastors to victory in the Transfer Church Membership Week, September 14-21. A preliminary check last week reveals progress in most of the states. Definite reports were received from the following:

Alabama: Following the plan scheduled by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in its effort to enlist non-resident Baptists. All media of publicity have been used to promote this effort. Genuine interest prevails and definite results appear in sight. Besides using all the publicity sent in by the Executive Committee forces, special emphasis will be given to this effort in the August 14 issue of the Alabama Baptist.

Arizona: Twenty-four special rallies, with visiting teams of three members each will be held the last week in August. Churches are being urged to either post, print or read their church rolls and find the addresses of non-resident members.

Goal: net gain of 1,200 members.

Arkansas: Letters have gone out from Baptist headquarters to all missionaries and pastors urging full co-operation in this movement. Also a brochure has been mailed to all pastors. A special Transfer Church Membership Week issue of the Arkansas Baptist will be published August 28.

California: Moderators have been requested to organize associations. Pastors have been contacted and all literature and cards have been mailed. Churches are co-operating by sending names of non-resident members to headquarters where they are being processed. The California Southern Baptist is giving much of its space in publicizing the campaign.

Georgia: "We have worked through the associations toward appointment of committees to assist in the promotion," according to state secretary, Dr. James W. Merritt. "All the departments in our work are co-operating and we have appealed to the pastors through letters, in addition to the promotional emphasis being given by The Christian Index."

Illinois: Conferences and speakers are being used at all associational meetings of every kind. Emphasis is given in annual district meetings of associations. Letter writing by all church members urging their friends and relatives to transfer membership has been encouraged. Weekly publicity carried in the denominational paper.

Louisiana: All associations urged to have a special program during the month of August, emphasizing this effort to reach Louisiana's 70,000 unaffiliated Baptists. Associational officers, with the organizers and chairmen of evangelism, asked to be responsible for promotion through the various organizations. Met in Alexandria July 15, for the presentation of this program.

Missouri: General superintendent has written to all associational moderators, suggesting that the matter be presented to the associations and fully discussed so that all may understand. He also enclosed a suggested program for associational conferences on the subject. The Word and Way, state Baptist paper, is publishing

articles on various phases of the campaign from week to week. The evangelism department is mailing out cards to be used in locating unaffiliated Baptists.

Mississippi: Contacted every pastor by letter, distributed to every church the pamphlet entitled "Transfer Church Membership Week," and sent out the "Search Cards", which were secured from the Sunday School Board. In addition, numerous articles have appeared in the Baptist Record promoting this program.

North Carolina: 200,000 "Search Cards" to pastors. State leaders are speaking on subject at annual associational meetings being held this month and next. Articles and editorials on subject have been published in Biblical Recorder.

South Carolina: Vigorously promoting Transfer Church Membership Week. The Baptist Courier, our state paper, is, and has been for weeks, "loaded" with articles, appeals, and reminders. Baptist headquarters in Columbia is sending out a stream of good material.

Texas: Conference held with 17 district missionaries and plans made for special emphasis on matter in 120 associational workers' conferences, meeting held in July. The Baptist Standard, going to 256,457 homes, dedicated the July 31, issue to this program of enlistment. We plan to have some ringing articles and editorials in each issue through September 21. No goals have been set, but confident that large numbers will be enlisted through concerted efforts of all the agencies.

Virginia: Dr. James R. Bryant, state secretary, says, "We are striving to enlist the unenlisted and encourage every Virginia Baptist to transfer their membership to the church they are now attending and to make this not only a transfer of church membership but a dedication of life. We are contacting every association in an effort to reach every church with an active campaign in the department of evangelism."

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SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY TO ENROLL TWO HUNDRED

WAKE FOREST, N. C. --(BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is expected to open this fall with a capacity enrollment of 200, including 150 new students. Over 400 have expressed desire to enter the school. Enrollment had to be restricted because of the lack of facilities. Plans are under way to expand capacity to 300 by the fall of 1953. Six new faculty members will begin work when school opens. They are: E. A. McDowell and O. T. Binkley who come from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Stewart A. Newman and R. T. Daniel from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; M. Ray McKay from the Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.; and Marc H. Lovelace from the faculty of Wake Forest College.

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SHIELDS IN HOSPITAL

SAINT LOUIS, Mo.--(BP--Oliver R. Shields, pastor, Lafayette Park Baptist Church, here and recording secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, is recovering from a serious mid-summer operation.

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NEW POLIO WARD FOR
JACKSON HOSPITAL

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Hospital here will have a polio ward in operation early this fall. It will accommodate 50 patients. Funds for the ward came from a drive sponsored by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce. Cost of the establishment of the ward is \$50,000.

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GLORIETA PIONEER WEEK
ENROLLS CAPACITY CROWDS

GLORIETA, N. M.--(BP)--Pioneer Week at the new Southern Baptist assembly at Glorieta, N. M., 18 miles from Santa Fe, opened Thursday with capacity crowds and with the prediction by speakers that the assembly would soon make as great a contribution to denominational life as Ridgecrest.

More than 750 visitors from 18 states had registered when the first service was called to order Thursday night in the "pioneer" auditorium which had been built in the two days preceding the meeting. More than 1,000 attended before the end of the week. Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School Board, which operates the assembly, presided at the first service and announced that a full schedule will be presented during the summer of 1953.

Assembly visitors were able to occupy rooms in the Texas Hall, although the building was not completely finished. As had been announced in advance, temporary quarters were used for the dining room and the auditorium. Visitors were cheered by the cooling breezes and the construction of three additional units; New Mexico Hall, the permanent administration building; the auditorium, the first unit to seat 1,000; and the dining hall. Ground was broken during Pioneer Week for two additional housing units, Oklahoma Hall, and the Hall of States.

E. A. Herron, manager of the assembly, reported that 20 churches had already leased property for the erection of church cottages, and as many individuals had discussed plans to build cabins.

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