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127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS BAPTIZE
376,085 PEOPLE LAST YEAR

NASHVILLE, TENN.—(BP)—Membership in the 27,788 churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention passed the seven million mark for the first time in 1950 to reach 7,079,889, a gain of 318,624 during the year, according to final tabulations released to Southern Baptist editors meeting in Tampa, Tuesday, by Porter Routh, Nashville, Tenn., secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The gain in membership was made possible by a record breaking number of baptisms during 1950, 376,085, a gain of 41,193 over the preceding year. Routh reported that 23,629 of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention reported at least one baptism. Only 22,565 churches reported baptisms in 1949.

Sunday school enrolment also hit a new record peak with 5,024,553 reported, a gain of 380,903 over 1949, or 8.2 per cent. It was reported that 26,678 of the churches had Sunday schools.

Training Union enrolment climbed 205,754 during the year to reach 1,441,195. The records show that 1,385 new churches started Training Union work during the year to make the total 15,835.

A total of 15,294 churches reported Woman's Missionary Union organizations with an enrolment of 1,033,479.

Brotherhood enrolment reached 167,744 in the 5,076 churches which sponsor the men's organization.

The expanded building program of Southern Baptist churches was revealed by a gain of \$97,010,177 in the valuation of church property. The new church property figure was reported at \$645,271,741, a gain of 17.7 per cent during the year. Even with the large increase in building, there was a gain of only \$2,332,882 in the debts owed by Southern Baptist churches. The figure climbed from \$49,249,425 to \$51,582,307 during the year.

Gains in total gifts and gifts to missions were reported. Total gifts for all causes reached \$197,242,014. This amounted to \$27.86 per capita compared with \$26.38 per capita in 1949. Gifts to missions and benevolences totaled \$33,402,124, a gain of \$2,085,306 over 1949. This amounted to \$4.72 per capita, compared with \$4.63 in 1949.

More Southern Baptist churches reported pastors in 1950. Although there were 503 additional churches reported for the year, the number of churches reporting pastors increased 1,105 with 25,093 of the 27,788 churches reporting ministers. Congregations also took note of the rising cost of living. The average salary paid the pastors climbed 8.5 per cent during the year.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS ERECT BUILDINGS
VALUED AT NINETY-SEVEN MILLION

NASHVILLE, TENN.--(BP)--Approximately \$97,000,000 was spent by Southern Baptists during 1950 for construction, expansion, and improvement of church properties, according to W. A. Harrell, secretary of the department of Architecture of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The information was based on the annual report of Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information for the Board. The report from Routh showed the value of church property to have increased from \$548,261,564 in 1949 to \$645,271,741 in 1950, a gain of \$97,010,177.

Harrell warned that high cost, scarcity of materials, and possible stiffening of priorities "raise a serious question" for the future.

"So far churches are in the clear under national production authority provisions for religious and educational building," he said. "Whether these provisions will be tightened as they were in World War II we do not know yet."

He urged that churches with construction plans already made move ahead with actually building as rapidly as possible, and that others studying possible expansion complete specific plans at an early date.

Harrell said that the \$97,000,000 figure represents about one fourth of all church construction by all religious denominations last year.

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ALASKAN LAWYER
ORDAINED TO MINISTRY

SEWARD, ALASKA--(BP)--Dr. Galen Hunt, lawyer and business man of Seward, Alaska, was licensed to preach by the First Baptist Church of Juneau. Dr. Hunt has two earned doctor degrees, one in science and one in law. During the war he was legal advisor on the atomic bomb project. He became acquainted with the Baptists while engaged in business in Fairbanks where he attended the First Baptist Church of which Orland Cary was pastor. He later became a regular attendant at the Alaska Baptist Convention. Dr. Hunt will organize and conduct the Resurrection Baptist Mission at Seward.

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116 MEMBERS IN THREE DAYS

AMARILLO, TEXAS--(BP)--One hundred sixteen new members in three days! This was the record set in a recent week-end revival at First Baptist Church here. One hundred thirteen of these came on Sunday and 68 were candidates for baptism. Dr. Carl E. Bates is pastor.

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S. L. STEALEY ELECTED
SOUTHEASTERN PRESIDENT

WAKE FOREST, N.C.--(BP)--Dr. S. L. Stealey, professor of church history in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been invited by the Board of Trustees to become president of the new Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Wake Forest, North Carolina. Dr. Stealey has not yet announced his decision.

Dr. Stealey has been with the seminary since 1942. Before that he served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia, and North Carolina. His last pastorate was at First Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina.

A native of West Virginia, Stealey spent his boyhood in Virginia, Washington, D. C., and Oklahoma. His father, the late C. P. Stealey, was founder and first editor of THE BAPTIST MESSENGER, state paper for Oklahoma.

Dr. Stealey graduated from High school at Britton, Oklahoma. He took his college work in Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Oklahoma. Following a term of service in World War I he taught at William Jewell College in Missouri. He received his Th.M. from Southern Seminary in 1927 and his Th.D. in 1932.

Mrs. Stealey is the former Miss Jessie Wheeler of Wynnewood, Oklahoma. They have two children, a daughter, Mrs. F. K. Vance of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and a son, S. L. Jr.

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ALASKA FRONTIER PASTOR
ENTERS SBC SEMINARY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS--(BP)--After six years of helping pioneer the Baptist faith on the rugged Alaskan frontier, Rev. Odell Lene has entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Six years ago Lene, a Baylor graduate who was ordained in 1941, went to Alaska only a few months after the active Baptist work in the territory had begun.

During all of that time he received no salary as a pastor. To support his family he was a carpenter, contractor and fireman at various times while serving as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Anchorage.

"It does a preacher good," he said, "to get out and see a few callouses... . He learns something about life that way. We need to come out of our cloisters."

"The difficulty," he explained, "is that most people consider themselves as temporarily living in Alaska. They checked their religion when they caught the boat. They're busy, too, building their own homes and making a living. Like any frontier Alaska is reckless, the people are daring. They are good people, though."

Upon graduation from the seminary he intends to return to Alaska.

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GERMAN YOUTH SITUATION
NEEDS ATTENTION OF CHURCHES

NORMAN, OKLA.--(BP)--"The youth of Germany is probably the most pitiful lot of people in Germany today, even in comparison with the many refugees," according to Dr. Johannes Malthaner, a professor in the University of Oklahoma here. Dr. Malthaner, who is also an ordained Baptist minister, reared and educated in Germany, has recently returned from a tour of his native land.

He also says, "There are more than 500,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 25 in western Germany alone who are unemployed. What is even worse they are without any family connection. They live massed in barracks. Forty thousand of them move as vagabonds from town to town ready to steal or rob. It is a very pitiful situation. Our German Baptist churches try to help. The churches have small camps where they invite these young people for two-week retreats. The churches give the youth for the first time perhaps in their lives real sound Christian teaching, and the fellowship of other young people who are Christians."

"You can well understand how disillusioned, bitter, skeptical, and even distrustful those young men and women are who for ten years and more were under the constant indoctrination of the Nazis and then saw the terrible breakdown of their country, the defaulting of their leader. These young people are in a great danger for Germany and the world for they are without morals and high principles. They are ready to follow another unscrupulous leader."

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ONE FOURTH GOLDEN GATE
OVERSEAS MISSION VOLUNTEERS

BERKELEY, CALIF.--(BP)--One fourth of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary students, or 50 out of the 200 attending the seminary, are overseas volunteers. This was the announcement made on the seminary's second annual missions day.

The student body heard Dr. Samuel E. Maddox, personnel secretary for the Foreign Mission Board say, "Make no mistake about it; God is ready to move, if we dare to believe." He pointed to the need of sacrificial service in all fields. He said, "We need men who will claim a nation for Christ, who will say, as John Knox said, 'Give me Scotland or I die' or give me Brazil or Italy."

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