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September 30, 1971

Sammy Tippit Asks For Jury Trial For Disorderly Conduct

CHICAGO (BP)--It was an eventful day for 24-year-old Sammy Tippit, Chicago Jesus people leader and Baptist evangelist who was recently arrested on "disorderly conduct" charges after witnessing and passing out tracts in Chicago's "Old Town" nightclub district.

On Sept. 29, Tippit ended a 26-day prayer and fast vigil at the Chicago Civic Center Plaza; he appeared in court for an initial hearing on his "disorderly conduct" charges; and he became the father of a baby boy.

During the hearing in the 18th District Police Court, Tippit and fellow evangelist Lloyd Cole, both charged with "disorderly conduct," requested and were granted a jury trial.

"When I saw how fast the cases were disposed of in police court, I knew I should ask for a jury trial," Tippit said.

The jury trial was scheduled to go to the 46th District Court on Oct. 13, although the magistrate in the initial hearing told Tippit that because of a backlog of cases before the court, he really could expect only to have his case placed on the docket at that time.

The hearing here marked the end of a 26-day fast and prayer vigil for Tippit, who directs a ministry called "God's Love in Action, Inc." While the wind whistled through the famed Picasso sculpture on the Civic Center Plaza, Tippit maintained an around-the-clock witnessing and prayer marathon.

The Baptist evangelist said he lost about 25 pounds during the fast. He lived on a liquid diet, consisting mainly of fruit juices and milk shakes.

During the hearing, about 100 interested persons crowded the courtroom, and another 100 stood outside on the sidewalks. The group outside sang hymns and at one point gave a "Jesus yell," shouting the letters of the name, Jesus. Observers said the crowd did not interfere with the court proceedings.

Tippit had been arrested on Sept. 4, after four nights of witnessing and passing out tracts in front of several Chicago nightclubs on Rush Street. Club owners had registered complaints that Tippit's evangelistic activities had hurt their business.

"I'm afraid the crime syndicate controls some of these clubs, and they in turn have influence with the police," Tippit was quoted as saying after his arrest.

A few days later, the Board of Directors for the Illinois Baptist State Association adopted a resolution deploring Tippit's arrest on "disorderly conduct" charges, saying that "witnessing and passing out religious literature is hardly disorderly conduct."

Immediately after the court hearing, a waiting car whisked Tippit to Belmont Hospital, where his wife had been admitted earlier that morning.

He told the sidewalk crowd as he was leaving the court, "I hope that when our baby is born, he can grow up in a nation where there is freedom to worship and witness."

Thirteen hours later, Tippit's wife "Tex" gave birth to an eight-pound boy. They promptly named him Paul David.

Mississippi Board Votes
To Rebuild State Assembly

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board voted here to recommend re-establishing Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, which two years ago was wrecked by Hurricane Camille.

The board also recommended a record budget of \$4.6 million for 1972, including, for the first time, a \$300,000 "advance" section which would benefit specific causes.

Both recommendations will come up for consideration during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 16-18, in Jackson.

In adopting the report of its assemblies committee, the board voted to construct facilities for 400 persons at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss., at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million.

The committee reported that they already have about \$500,000 in hand, mostly from insurance payments following Camille's devastation.

Construction, according to the convention's constitution, could not begin until "sufficient" funds for the project are in hand for completion. Convention approval is also required.

The committee did not recommend a procedure for raising the additional funds needed for rebuilding the assembly facilities. The report of the committee will be a part of the board's report to the convention.

The proposed 1972 budget of \$4.6 million would be an increase of \$265,000 over the 1971 budget. The recommended 1972 budget includes \$4.3 million in operating and capital needs, plus \$300,000 in an "advance section" to be distributed to specific causes after the \$4.3 million has been raised.

Included in the \$4.3 million for operating and capital needs is an allocation of almost \$2.8 million for state Baptist causes, and about \$1.3 million for Southern Baptist convention causes.

Of the \$300,000 "advance section," about \$91,500 would go to SBC causes, and the remainder to specific state mission efforts, including \$88,500 for the Convention Board and assemblies.

The assemblies committee has been studying for two years whether or not to recommend rebuilding either Gulfshores Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss., or Kittiwake Baptist Assembly, Long Beach, Miss. Both were completely destroyed by Hurricane Camille in August of 1969. Damage was estimated at about \$1 million, book value.

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Tennessee Board Approves
\$6 Million Budget Proposal

September 30, 1971

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, meeting in this Nashville suburb, voted to recommend a \$6 million budget for 1972.

The budget, an increase of \$325,000 over the 1971 budget, must receive final approval from the state convention when it meets Nov. 9-11 in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Of the total, two-thirds will go to support state Baptist mission causes, and one-third will be distributed to Southern Baptist Convention nation and world-wide efforts.

In other actions, the board voted to give 10 tracts of land adjacent to Belmont College to the Baptist school in Nashville, and approved a \$1.5 million fund campaign for Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

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CORRECTION: On Baptist Press Feature dated 9-27-71, headlined "Jewish Youth Joins Jesus People; Tells Editor Why;" please change spelling in byline and editor's note to read Matthew Daub (not Baub). Editor Hastings expresses his regrets for the error.