

May 28, 1951

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

EVANGELISM AND TRAINING
FEATURED ON CLOSE BY SBC PROGRAM

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—The closing service of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Francisco, June 20-24, will feature two of the most important matters facing Baptists, (1) training of church members, and (2) evangelism. Fifteen thousand are expected to attend, most of them from California. State leaders are organizing to secure representation from all of the state's churches. The meeting will be under the joint direction of Dr. J. E. Lambdin, Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. C. E. Matthews, Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Lambdin will direct the Training Union Hour emphasizing the Southern Baptist program of church member training. The Baptists have 15,835 Sunday evening Training Unions in which are enrolled 1,440,895. Training Union advance in work has been rapid in recent years. Two hundred five thousand, four hundred fifty-seven new people were enrolled in 1950 and 1,385 new Training Unions organized.

The Training Union Hour will follow a song service led by Dr. B. B. McKinney, Nashville, and will feature a new color film produced by Mr. Earl Waldrup, Nashville, "Training Union Is a Family Affair." Porter Routh, Nashville, will present facts and figures showing progress in church member training. Leonard E. Wedel, Nashville, director of associational Training Union work for the Southern Baptist Convention, will present "Training Personal Soul-Winners." Dr. C. E. Matthews will follow this with a discussion of "Keeping Those We Win." Jimmy Rodgers, Winter Haven, Florida, will bring a trumpet solo, "All on the Altar."

The Evangelistic Hour will follow the Training Union Hour. Dr. W. A. Criswell will be the preacher and the hour will be directed by Dr. C. E. Matthews, superintendent of evangelism of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The subject of his sermon is "Christ and This Crucial Hour." Southern Baptists are militantly evangelistic. They baptized 376,085 last year.

The Training Union Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Department of the Home Mission Board are co-operating in the promotion of this service. The Civic Auditorium will be filled to capacity.

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NEW WINDOW FORMAT

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(BP)—The format of The Window of Y.W.A., popular monthly missionary magazine for young women, will be changed with October 1951 number to pocket edition size. There were 30,030 subscribers in 1950 from the 55,300 members of Young Woman's Auxiliary.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS IN
FORTY-SECOND PLACE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Southern Baptists stand at the forty-second place in per member gifts for 1950 with an average \$28.53 going to all local church and mission causes, according to the Southern Baptist Handbook released here this week by Dr. Porter Routh, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information for the Baptist Sunday School Board. In 1949 Southern Baptists also stood in forty-second place with contribution averaging \$26.10 per member.

The \$28.53 was divided two ways, \$5.01 going to missions and benevolences and \$23.52 going to the local congregations.

Free Methodists were first in total per member contribution with \$169.11, divided \$48.11 to missions and benevolence and \$121.00 to local congregation. Seventh Day Adventists were second with \$138.28 per member, divided \$115.82 to missions and benevolences and \$22.46 to local expenses.

Others on the list above the Southern Baptists are the Episcopalians in twenty-third place with \$42.44 per member, American Baptists in thirty-seventh place with \$32.69 per member and the Nazarenes in fifth place with \$104.64 per member.

Bottom on the list of forty-eight denominations reported were the National Baptists with only \$1.92 per member.

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ALMA HUNT IN SOUTH AMERICA

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(BP)—Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, and Miss Eula Mae Henderson, executive secretary of Texas Woman's Missionary Union, are making a forty-one day tour of mission fields of South America. They left on April 27 and will return on June 6. Missionary Bill Haverfield from Quito, Ecuador has written with joy of the blessings of their visit to them. The visitors were both introduced to the world-wide radio audience of English-speaking countries on May 1 over HCJB, "The Voice of the Andes."

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MRS. McMURRY ELECTED

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(BP)—Mrs. William McMurry has been selected as Mission Study Director of Woman's Missionary Union and will begin her work regularly on June 1. Meanwhile she will direct the meeting of the Mission Study Council on May 9-11 in Birmingham. The state mission study chairmen will be present 100 per cent for this workshop. The major part of the time will be used in demonstration teaching of mission study books.

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JAMES GIVES LIBRARY
TO AMERICAN SEMINARY

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Dr. Powhatan W. James, retiring president of Bethel Woman's College, Hopkinsville, Ky., has presented a large part of his library to the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, Tenn. This valuable gift contains about one thousand volumes, many of which come from the library of the late Dr. George W. Truett, father-in-law of Dr. James. The announcement was made by Dr. L. S. Sedberry, secretary of the Seminary Commission. At the close of this school year Dr. James will retire from the presidency of Bethel College, and will make his home in Dallas, Texas.

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CONFERENCE ON CO-OPERATION
ADOPTS CLARIFICATION STATEMENT

EDGEWATER PARK, Miss.--(BP)--Clarification of the proper division of Cooperative Program offerings between state and Southern Baptist Convention mission causes was the object of a recent Conference on Co-operation conducted here and comprised of state secretaries and a special committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The report of the Conference reaffirmed the principles of co-operation as set forth in the Southern Baptist Convention Annual for 1934 with "clarifying emendations and corrections." The report will be submitted to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting at San Francisco, June 20-24, through its Executive Committee. Following is the full text of the report:

"Your committee recognizes and emphasizes the essential unity of all our denominational work both Southwide and state.

"We reaffirm the principles of co-operation as set forth in the Southern Baptist Convention Annual for 1934, pages 48-49, with the following clarifying emendations and corrections, to wit:

- a. Since the Cooperative Program is a joint enterprise of the various state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention through which the churches carry out their world-wide denominational program, and in the interest of clearness and understanding among our people, we suggest that expense chargeable to the whole Cooperative Program be cared for as follows:
 1. That we share in the administration and promotion expenses directly related to the operation of the Cooperative Program.
 2. We recognize that the Minister's Retirement Plan and Widow's Supplemental Annuity Plan is an appropriate charge against the whole program.
 3. We recognize that the administration expense of the Woman's Missionary Union is an appropriate charge against the whole program.
 4. That for the sake of uniformity and clarity in reporting the above the executive secretary of the Executive Committee and the several state secretaries undertake to work out uniform systems of accounting and reporting.
 5. That we fraternally urge in every state that expenses chargeable to the whole Cooperative Program be kept at a minimum, holding ever before us the ideal of the 50-50 division for both state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.
- b. Since in the rapidly changing conditions which affect our plans, it would seem wise for us to have, as circumstances may direct, mutual consultations concerning our expanding programs, and we so respectfully recommend."

Following the Conference Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary for the Executive Committee said that "this statement is designed as a guide in determining what items may properly be charged to the whole Cooperative Program and therefore deducted as a preferred item prior to the division of Cooperative Program funds between the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. There will inevitably be variations in procedure because each state is free to use its own discretion in charging any item against the whole program. For example, while it is recognized that the Minister's Retirement Plan and Widow's Supplemental Annuity Plan may be charged against the whole program, approximately half of the states do not do so."

Those present for the Conference on Co-operation were most of the state secretaries and the following committee of the Executive Committee: Louie D. Newton, Georgia, chairman; J. W. Storer, Oklahoma; J. Winston Pearce, North Carolina; Leon M. Latimer, South Carolina; and Adiel Moncrief, Jr., Missouri.

EVANGELISM HAS MADE US

A Tribute to Evangelism by
Dr. E. D. Head, President
Southwestern Seminary

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently at the Promotion Conference in Edgewater Park, Miss., Dr. E. D. Head was asked to speak on the subject, "Evangelism Has Made Us." The closing part of his address was devoted to evangelistic leadership, especially that of Dr. C. E. Matthews, secretary of evangelism for the Home Mission Board and director of the recently conducted Eastern Simultaneous Evangelistic Campaign. The address is reported by the Baptist Press.

Evangelism has made us. I should like to paraphrase some well known words "Evangelism has made us what we are and evangelism must maintain us." Or we might say "Evangelism has made us, is now making us and will continue to make us." Another statement, "Evangelism is the law of the life of the church, or a nucleus of the churches, or a nucleus of the churches as we know them and relate ourselves to them." And further, "Evangelism is the law of the life of the soul."

It takes evangelism to save the soul, if you will let me use this particular reference. For without evangelism there can be no warm heart. Without evangelism there can be no compassion. Without evangelism there can be no soul aflame. And if we are to be heart and spirit and compassion as a people, we must magnify evangelism.

Evangelism holds us with unified devotion to a great central theme and remedy for the soul and for world need, namely, the blood of Jesus Christ. He, himself, died on Calvary's cross and in that death he made available salvation for every individual who will receive the life that is provided through him.

There can be no evangelism which does not proclaim the cross, and there can be no right positioning of life unless that life is centered in the cross and such lives rally around the cross.

Evangelism makes possible the leadership and light of the Holy Spirit. Without him there can be no power, no gospel message, no guidance into the path of truth. He is the one who furnishes power of conviction in the hearts of men, he is the one who leads the soul to a recognition of Jesus Christ and an acceptance of him therefore as Saviour.

Evangelism, then, is the secret of that unity by which we now move and through which we are stimulated and solidified for a great program for the days ahead.

We cannot think of evangelism making us apart from the right leadership in directing evangelism. So now in this brief moment it is my delightful privilege not only to accentuate evangelism but to express to one who has just passed his fifth birthday in relation to the Home Mission Board, Dr. Charles E. Matthews, the deepest gratitude of our hearts for his leadership, for the inspiration he has given us, for the vision that lured him, and for the co-operation which has been enlisted through his leadership all over our southland by way of heralding the good news of Jesus Christ.

Brother Charlie, we love you, we are grateful to God for you, we appreciate you because you have not only taught evangelism, but you have lived evangelism. For in your church as a pastor, both in your individual example as you went about and go about doing personal work and now as you lead us so gloriously in the simultaneous revivals that I think more or as much as anything else make us a united people with an alluring vision, with souls on fire, and with joy and triumph in proclaiming the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. God bless you, empower you, lead you, cheer you on the rest of the journey.