



**BUREAUS**

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January 23, 1973

Television Evangelism Show  
Rescheduled to Air April 1

ATLANTA (BP)--Originally set to go on the air the middle of February, "Spring Street USA," Southern Baptists' first evangelistic variety show, has been rescheduled to premiere April 1.

Special guests for the rescheduled shows include singer Pat Boone, Apollo 15 Astronaut James Irwin, comedian Jerry Clower, Texas Singer Cynthia Clawson, television singer Norma Zimmer, and "Queen of the West" Dale Evans Rogers.

Also appearing on future shows as guest stars will be country music singer Connie Smith, pianist-composer-singer Ken Medema, music evangelist Jamall Badry, singer Jo Ann Shelton, former Louisiana Governor Jimmy Davis, vocal group Andrae Crouch and the Disciples, and the Tom Tichenor puppets.

Rescheduling of the programs will result in a wider distribution on more stations, and a continuous running program, said Fred Moseley, assistant executive secretary-treasurer and acting director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

"The films we originally had planned to premier on Feb. 11 are ready, but we faced difficulty in finishing the second group of the series in time for completion of the first," Moseley said. "Rather than rerun the first segments so early or skip a few weeks, we felt it was preferable to move the programs up seven weeks."

The first half-hour programs feature evangelism leader Kenneth L. Chafin as host. Chafin, former director of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board, is now pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston. He closes each program with a brief message.

A new musical group, formed especially for the variety show, the Spring Street Singers, will appear each week. Music for the telecasts is directed by Buryl Red of New York, president of BR Productions and Generic Music Co., and one of Southern Baptists' best known composers and arrangers.

The variety program and the singing group derive their names from the 1350 Spring Street address of the Atlanta-based SBC Home Mission Board.

The Home Mission Board is responsible for the content of the show while the SBC Radio and TV Commission is cooperating in the production and distribution of the programs. Truett Myers of the Radio and TV Commission is producer of the show.

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Texas Baptist Leader  
Dies in Fort Worth

1/23/73

FORT WORTH (BP)--Don J. Singletary, who recently took disability retirement as president and chief executive officer of the Texas Baptist Church Loan Association and the Texas Baptist Church Loan Corporation, died here after a long illness.

Singletary, 60, joined the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in April, 1968, from a position as president and director of Tarrant State Bank.

The Church Loan Association and the Church Loan Corporation serve Texas Baptist churches by making mortgage loans for church building programs.

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Million Dollar Fire  
Destroys Oklahoma Church

LAWTON, Okla. (BP)--An early morning fire destroyed the auditorium, chapel and most of the education facilities at First Baptist Church, Lawton, Okla., with Pastor Forest Siler estimating losses at more than \$1 million.

A security patrolman discovered the fire at 3:15 a.m., Jan. 19. The fire had smoldered and smoked for two hours before breaking out into flames that shot 100 feet into the air.

Firemen fought the blaze for more than five hours, while Siler, his wife and deacon chairman Carl Fitch maintained a prayerful vigil.

"It really touches you to stand and watch something like this and hear those beautiful stained glass windows explode," Siler commented.

The flames, fanned by a brisk wind, destroyed the church's three-story auditorium building, education unit, chapel and offices. Also lost in the fire were two pipe organs, and a \$30,000 color television camera that had just been installed.

Siler said only the nursery and two or three departments escaped extensive damage. He was able to rescue and later salvage a few personal items, including his file of sermons and his library which were water and smoke-damaged.

Exact cause and first location of the fire was not immediately determined, but it was believed to have started in the education unit and spread throughout the facility.

It was the second time the Lawton church had been destroyed by fire.

In 1954, fire destroyed the church's education unit, which was later rebuilt at a cost of \$100,000. The auditorium, which would seat 1,670, was completed in 1957 at a cost of \$400,000.

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Texas Named to Head New  
North Carolina Council

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Charles V. Petty, associate secretary of the Christian Life Commission for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been named executive secretary of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina here.

Petty will assume the newly-created post as the first Christian life executive secretary for North Carolina Baptists effective March 1.

A native of England, Ark., Petty is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he earned the doctor of theology degree in Christian ethics.

He has been pastor of Baptist churches in Formosa, Ark., and Mineral Wells, Tex., and has served as director of research and organization in addition to duties as associate secretary for the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission since 1968. He has specialized in the area of family life.

Petty, 32, has also been a Baptist Student Union summer missionary to Ghana, West Africa, and has directed special mission teams to the Bahamas, West Indies.

As the first full-time executive secretary of the North Carolina Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs, Petty will be responsible for leading state Baptists in the areas of family life ministries, human relations, moral issues, economic life, and citizenship responsibilities.

He will also serve as a liaison in work with the North Carolina General Assembly (state legislature), and Congress on matters of public affairs.

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