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May 15, 1973

First Center in Five Years  
Constructed with Board Funds

**RAINSVILLE, Ala. (BP)**--In this small farming community tucked away in the sand mountains of northeast Alabama, workmen are putting finishing touches on a building. When completed, the structure will be a Baptist center, specializing in work with migrant people.

Although primarily financed by Alabama Baptist state and association funds, the building has special significance for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries.

The Rainsville Center, into which the department put \$25,000, is the first center to be constructed with Home Mission Board funds in more than five years.

"It's been a matter of priorities," said Charles McCullin, an associate in the department. "There is only so much money. How are we going to spend it--on buildings or people, or both?"

"We've elected to stop building," McCullin said. "That doesn't mean Baptist centers aren't justified where they are, or that we won't occasionally put money into others. But we're concentrating our money on people."

In the past, the department sponsored construction of Baptist centers when local churches failed to provide ministries needed to reach certain communities. But as more and more churches became willing to cross racial and economic barriers, the Home Mission Board has backed away from construction and funneled its resources into missionary personnel.

Local congregations have been encouraged to open their doors to community ministries. "In most places," said McCullin, "where you have a center, you have a church nearby; we want these churches to get involved."

The Rainsville center is not a departure from this trend, added department associate Clovie Brantley, whose experience with Baptist centers goes back 35 years. "The area is remote, with no churches strong enough to do the work alone," says Brantley. "At this time we have no plans to put money into other centers."

There are between 100 and 120 Baptist centers, Brantley estimated, with about half of these--63--supported in full or in part by Home Mission Board funds, or having a home missionary as director. State conventions and local Baptist associations operate the rest; in most cases, they also directly supervise the work of all the centers, with the department working through these channels.

"The centers were started," said McCullin, "to fill a void. The churches were not ministering to people in these areas because they were different--different race, different culture, different economic level. The center was an attempt to reach these people in new, creative ways."

They still are. But they have also become--at least in some areas--an escape hatch for churches not wanting to begin community ministries, McCullin said. As long as centers operated in the communities, the churches got by with periodic contributions and occasional volunteers.

Money and hands-off attitudes assuaged feelings of guilt and covered unwillingness to react to peoples needs.

Without the centers, according to the department, churches will take up the slack. The effect could be to create 30,000 new Baptist centers--the approximate number of churches that have potential for serving their communities.

"Our main work for now is equipping volunteers to do the work in the local church," says CSM department Secretary Paul Adkins. "We'll do this with conferences, training institutes, and mission action workshops."

Whether churches will, in fact, react this way is an unanswered question, but many have already begun weekday programs and "we will help any church get one started if we can," says Brantley.

"You're not going to reach many people for the Lord unless you have an avenue of contact," Brantley adds, "and weekday ministries, I think, are the thing every church ought to be doing. If they were, we wouldn't need Baptist centers any more."

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Summer Missionaries to Hold  
State with Communications

5/15/73

ATLANTA (BP)--Communication efforts in the Northern Plains Baptist Convention will get a boost from a team of four student missionaries in a two-summer project.

The four student workers, with special skills in writing, broadcasting, photography, and art, will work the first summer at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board offices here, training in operating the resources for advancing communications in the Northern Plains area.

The second summer, the same four students will move to the Northern Plains to work as a communication team in the state convention itself.

The four students are among 900 students assigned to the 10-week summer missions program, 600 sponsored by the SBC Home Mission Board, and 300 by Baptist Student Unions. Most of the students, assigned to the 50 states, will work in a variety of ministries including Vacation Bible Schools, inner-city programs and migrant work.

Other projects for some of the 900 students workers include a team to work with the annual American Indian pow-pows and four Baptist Student Union-sponsored construction teams.

The pow-pow team, led by Dave Bennett, campus minister of Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield, Mo., will go to several of the summer Indian pow-pows in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Missouri.

In these pow-pows, Indians gather with their families for traditional tribal celebrations. Living in and operating out of teepees, the six students will conduct children's day schools, open rap centers, and direct drama ministries on the reservations.

In Mobile, Ala., a student volunteer will work in a seaman's ministry. Another will work among the urban Indians in Portland, Ore., and two students will work with the aging in Spokane, Wash.

"We're placing 200 to 250 students in resort ministries across the United States in response to the resort and leisure revolution," said Emery Smith, of the board's department of special mission ministries.

His office also is working to place students in fields where special skills are needed and where the work will not get done otherwise.

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Georgia Convention Names Two  
To New Posts, One Retires

ATLANTA (BP)--Two acting state mission secretaries have been named by the administrative committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention as part of a major reorganization of the convention's administrative staff.

At the same time, the associate secretary of the convention's church music department for more than 20 years, Edmond D. Keith, announced his plans to retire. Keith has been noted as one of the nation's leading hymnologists.

Named as acting Sunday School secretary for the convention was A. Jerrell Pritchett, and elected as acting Brotherhood secretary was Eugene R. Dailey. Both Pritchett and Dailey have served as associates in the Sunday School department since 1967 and 1968 respectively.

Pritchett will temporarily hold the spot vacated by Julian T. Pipkin, former state Sunday School secretary who is now director of the Church Services and Development Division under the convention's reorganized structure.

Dailey will replace Bernard D. King, former Brotherhood secretary, who was earlier named administrative assistant to Searcy S. Garrison, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention.

Keith, the retiring church music associate, had planned to retire next year, but two heart attacks have forced him to take disability retirement a year early. Keith is 64.

Keith has long been recognized as an authority on the history of hymns, and is now in the process of selling to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary what once was noted as one of the world's largest private libraries on hymnology. He is the author of five books on hymnology, and is active in Baptist historical society work.

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Brown Joins Baptist  
Sunday School Board

5/15/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nobel D. Brown, missionary to Nigeria for 10 years, has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as editor of young adult materials in the Sunday School department.

Brown, a native of McHenry, Ky., is a graduate of North Texas State University, Denton, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., where he earned the doctor of theology degree.

Prior to coming to the Sunday School Board, Brown served six months as visiting professor of preaching at Golden Gate Seminary. He was on the staff as instructor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, for one year and has served one semester at Golden Gate Seminary as visiting professor of New Testament and one semester at Baylor University as visiting professor of missions.

During his stay in Nigeria, from December, 1962, to June, 1972, Brown held various positions in the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary.

He also has held pastorates in churches in California and Kentucky.

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Blaylock Named Kentucky  
Baptist Student Director

5/15/73

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Donald Lynn Blaylock, currently campus minister for several colleges in western Kentucky, has been named director of Baptist student work for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effective June 1.

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Blaylock, who now works with Kentucky Wesleyan College, Brescia, Ky., and other colleges in Madisonville, Paducah, Henderson and Hopkinsville, Ky., will succeed J. Chester Durham, who has been named assistant executive secretary of the Kentucky Convention.

A native of Bristol, Va., Blaylock is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has served Baptist churches in Johnson City and Knoxville, Tenn.; Cullman Ala.; and Louisville, and was Baptist campus minister at Morehead State University before going to his present post.

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Sharron Lyon Named  
Keyboard Consultant

5/15/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Sharron Lyon, a former resident of Jackson, Tenn., has served at First Baptist Church, Nashville, as organist-music assistant. She also has served as organist and accompanist at Dalewood Baptist Church, Nashville, and West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

Duties of the new keyboard consultant include assisting and designing appropriate instrumental music activities, and planning, conducting and evaluating training for keyboard instrumentalists in the churches.

Miss Lyon was graduated cum laude from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., with the bachelor of music degree and she holds a masters in music from George Peabody College, Nashville. She has written a number of articles in the "Church Musician," and has served on the music faculties at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers.

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Ben Loring Named Texas  
Christian Life Associate

5/15/73

DALLAS (BP)--Ben E. Loring Jr., an evangelist currently doing seminary graduate study, has joined the staff of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission as associate secretary and director of research and organization.

Loring, 27, succeeds Charles V. Petty, who resigned last March to become executive secretary of the Council of Christian Life and Public Affairs for North Carolina Baptists.

Besides the research-resource-referral function and work with associational and church Christian life chairmen, Loring will direct the family life phase of the Texas Commission's program.

Loring has served as pastor of churches in Mart, Tex., and Eedy, Tex., and spent two years as minister of evangelism at First Baptist Church, Houston.

Loring, a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, is completing residence requirements for a doctor of ministry degree in Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary.

While studying in Fort Worth, Loring has been active in evangelism, leading "Youth Encounter Crusades" for Texas Baptists, area-wide crusades, and revival meetings.

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