

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

September 24, 1951

SMALL LOANS TO
SMALL CHURCHES

DALLAS, Tex. --(BP)-- The establishment of a denominational loan agency which would lend a hand to small and new Baptist churches in Texas was approved in the recent meeting of the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas.

Dr. A.E. White of Dallas, chairman of the committee presenting the plan, will work out the policy of the agency whereby a sum of \$250,000 will be available for a loan fund to aid churches without sufficient collateral to secure commercial loans.

"We do not need larger churches, but more churches," Dr. White told the executive board in the recent meeting. He referred to a recent survey showing that over 300 new Baptist churches are needed now in the twenty-five largest Texas cities.

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SOUTHERN BAPTISTS SECOND
IN AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY GIFTS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Figures released by the American Bible Society Bible House in New York show that Southern Baptists are second in gifts to the Society during the first half of 1951 but that the \$41,389.69 given thus far is \$6,017 less than the amount contributed for the same period in 1950.

Of the forty-two denominations contributing, twenty-four show a let-down in 1951 giving. Total receipts through June from all denominations were \$384,175, an increase of \$26,077 over last year.

Contributions to the American Bible Society should be made through the local churches. Treasurers should send the gifts through the state mission offices in the regular manner.

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ANOTHER STATE
ADDS R.A. SECRETARY

JACKSON, Miss. --(BP)-- New Royal Ambassador Secretary of the Mississippi W.M.U. is Rev. Joel Dillard Ray of Corinth who was elected recently to succeed Rev. Walter Disbee. He has already begun his work in the state offices in Jackson.

Rev. Ray is a graduate of Mississippi College and has a B.D. degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville. He will work with 548 R.A. chapters in Mississippi.

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KENTUCKY EDITOR ACQUIRES
BAPTIST RECORDS OF LONG AGO

LOUISVILLE, Ky. --(BP)-- Dr. R.T. Skinner, editor of Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist's denominational paper, has plenty of first-hand information about what Baptists did back in 1835.

A rare journal of reports entitled "Baptist Triennial Register" is a 335-page collection of records by states of statistics and activities concerning organization, missions, educational work and general ministerial news.

The Register reports the establishment of the first Baptist seminary to be opened west of the Allegheny mountains in 1835 in Covington, Kentucky.

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MERCER UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
PROGRAM OPENS 20 CENTERS

MACON, Ga. --(BP)-- Twenty centers for training of Baptist ministers and laymen in Georgia are being established this fall by the extension department of Mercer University in Macon.

A goal of thirty such educational centers is projected for the 1951-52 school year, according to Dr. Guy N. Atkinson, director of the extension program. He recently announced the location and faculty for the twenty centers already operating. One of the centers is for Negro students.

Last year twenty-nine centers enrolled 414 ministers and 571 laymen in their courses. The classes are taught at night.

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HOME MISSION BOARD SECRETARY
VISITS ALASKAN FIELDS

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- Dr. J.B. Lawrence, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, left Atlanta recently for a tour of Southern Baptist mission fields in Alaska.

Dr. Lawrence, with Mrs. Lawrence, expects to witness the constitution of several new churches in Alaska and speak at dedication services of several already organized churches.

The first Baptist church in Alaska sponsored by Southern Baptists was organized in 1946 and the field became a part of the Home Mission work in 1948. There are now Southern Baptist churches in seven towns in Alaska.

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NEW GEORGIA MUSIC DEPARTMENT
TO BE HEADED BY DR. McCOMMON

ATLANTA, Ga. --(BP)-- A new Department of Music has been established by Georgia Baptists and will be headed by Dr. Paul McCommon, pastor of Jackson Hill Baptist Church in Atlanta, as secretary.

The Department was authorized last year by the Executive Committee of the Convention and Dr. McCommon was elected secretary at the September meeting of the Committee in Atlanta.

A graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary, Dr. McCommon has had extensive training in both choral music and instrumental work. For several months he has been a member and soloist of the Baptist Hour Choir.

He was choir director and director of young people in Waco churches while in Baylor and during seminary days was minister of music for four years at Fourth Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville.

He is expected to begin his work with the department in October.