

March 21, 1974

**Baptists Buy 'Lot' in Town  
Famous for Lottery Winners**

SANTA TERESA, Brazil (BP)--This unique little town of 6,000 people is better known for its hummingbirds and lottery tickets than it is for its Baptist witness.

Santa Teresa is known throughout Brazil because recently when 19 residents pooled their money to buy one ticket in Brazil's lottery, they won \$2.3 million, the world's largest jackpot.

The town has also been featured in Reader's Digest and National Geographic magazines because it is the hummingbird capital of the world, according to Mr. and Mrs. A. Kent Faris, Southern Baptist missionaries.

A single congregation of Baptists, currently meeting in a rented store front, has purchased a lot with Southern Baptist funds provided by the Foreign Mission Board. Baptist work was started here when a woman visiting relatives was impressed with the need for an evangelical witness here and encouraged a church to sponsor a mission.

New converts, all of Italian descent, were baptized in a stream passing through the town. In less than a year, the congregation has grown to 29 people who hold street and park services in outlying villages.

The excitement of the big lottery win has quieted. When news of the winnings arrived, there were several days of festivities, including dancing in the cobblestone streets and fireworks. Nearly everyone was related to one of the winners, according to Faris.

The townspeople expected the winnings to transform the town, but instead the money was put away in banks to draw interest, he said.

Faris said the average gambler spends eight per cent of his income on lottery cards and since news of the big win here, ticket sales have jumped 500 per cent. The lottery has handled over \$500 million, more than the total budgets of the Brazilian ministries of health, education and agriculture.

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Rigdon Says

1,000s of Baptists Pastors  
Need Further Education

3/21/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--The current revolution in adult education is by-passing thousands of pastors of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)-affiliated churches, the director of the SBC's Seminary Extension Department said in a meeting here.

Raymond M. Rigdon, who directs the department, an arm of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, told representatives from several Baptist state conventions during their second annual session that thousands of pastors are uninvolved in the adult education movement, "although we're living in the midst of the greatest explosion in adult education in the history of mankind."

Rigdon commended the Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries for performing a "monumental service in providing ministerial education." But he noted that "thousands of our finest pastors never will go to or go back to a college or seminary campus for further training. Southern Baptists must provide this vital training where the pastors are, on the church field."

Rigdon said Seminary Extension is helping to meet the need of training opportunities for college and non-college graduates on church fields through its network of more than 200 extension centers and the Seminary Extension Home Study Institute (or correspondence course study), but noted there is still a vast job to be done.

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The naming of Seminary Extension representatives by 13 Baptist state conventions is a fairly new practice, and another positive step toward meeting training needs, Rigdon said.

"Fifty per cent of the men and women we are trying to reach are in these 13 states. For the first time, we have a definite plan for working with state conventions in helping to provide training for pastors."

The next step, he said, is to conduct individual conferences with the state representatives and to design and promote work in all 13 states.

Rigdon said the department is open to work with any state on appointment of a liaison person by the executive secretary of the individual Baptist state conventions. All of the current persons have dual roles with their respective conventions, he noted.

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Southern Baptist Astronaut  
Receives NASA's Top Award

3/21/74

HOUSTON (BP)--Southern Baptist astronaut William R. Pogue has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) highest award, for his part in the Skylab 3 record 84-day mission.

Pogue, a deacon and member of Nassau Bay (Tex.) Baptist Church, was decorated by President Nixon, as were other members of the crew, Gerald Carr and Edward Gibson. The three astronauts completed the marathon mission on February 8.

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New Orleans Adopts Record  
Budget, Seeks a President

3/21/74

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees in their annual session here named a nine-member committee to seek a new president for the school, adopted the largest budget in the seminary's history, approved construction plans and appointed a new faculty member.

The trustees ratified an earlier action of the seminary's executive committee in accepting the resignation of New Orleans Seminary President Grady C. Cothen and in appointing Ray P. Rust, executive assistant to the president, as acting president.

Cothen has been named president-elect of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and will assume his new duties May 1, 1974. Rust has been serving as acting president of New Orleans Seminary since March 1.

Dr. and Mrs. Cothen were honored by the trustees with a testimonial dinner.

A presidential nominating committee, composed of seven trustees, one member of the seminary's faculty and a student, was named to spearhead the search for a new president for the Southern Baptist school.

Named to chair the seminary's presidential nominating committee was Robert Marsh, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dothan, Ala., who said recommendations for the new seminary head could be addressed to any committee officer. "We solicit the suggestions and prayers of our Southern Baptist brethren," Marsh said.

Vice-chairman of the committee is Malcolm Tolbert of the seminary faculty and Ralph Jernigan, associate pastor of Central Park Baptist Church, Birmingham, is secretary.

The new budget adopted by the seminary's trustees was \$2,144,174, the largest in the school's history. An increase to New Orleans Seminary from Southern Baptist Cooperative Program (unified budget) funds for fiscal year 1974-75 will be used for cost-of-living salary increases, Rust said.

On construction, the board heard a report on bids received for the construction of an addition to the library and for renovation of two buildings on the campus.

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The contract arrangement details were referred to the board's executive committee. It was hoped that the details would be completed within a few weeks, the trustees indicated.

In other construction action, the board approved plans for the erection of a spire on Roland Q. Leavell Chapel at the campus. Details of contract arrangements were again referred to the trustees' executive committee for "immediate implementation," according to Rust. He noted that construction of the spire would depend on the availability of sufficient funds.

In other action, the trustees authorized initiation of detailed planning for an addition to the seminary's preschool center. The center offers day care services for campus children and serves as a laboratory experience for students preparing for ministry with preschoolers.

In faculty action, the New Orleans trustees promoted Mildred C. Souther to professor of religious education and granted tenure to J. Terry Young, associate professor of theology.

The board also approved the employment of William B. Rogers, minister of education for First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va., as associate professor of religious education, to begin work at New Orleans on July 1, 1974.

Other faculty matters involved the naming of retiring professors E. N. Patterson and William H. Souther as professors emeriti.

In other action, the board elected Robert S. Magee, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, La., and a New Orleans alumnus, as its first new president in six years. Re-elected were Floyd Lewis of New Orleans, vice president; Hugh Brooks, New Orleans, secretary; and David Walker, Baton Rouge, treasurer.

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Southeastern Board Fetes  
Binkley, OK's Construction

3/21/74

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees meeting here honored the school's President Olin T. Binkley, who retires July 31, approved a tentative operating budget for 1974-75 of \$1,450,796, authorized renovation and enlargement of the seminary's library building and gave approval to proceed with the construction.

Binkley joined the faculty in 1952 and has served as the school's second president since 1963. No mention was made in the meeting of Binkley's successor as president, a seminary spokesman said. Representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention, the seminary's trustees, faculty and students paid tribute to Binkley at a recognition dinner.

In its meeting, the board confirmed the election to the faculty of Wayne E. Oates as distinguished professor of psychology of religion and Robert Richardson as assistant professor of field education. Oates and Richardson were both elected by the executive committee of the seminary's trustees late last year.

The board also voted to elect to the faculty George W. Braswell Jr. as associate professor of church history and missions and Richard Spencer as assistant professor of New Testament interpretation. Sabbatical leave was granted to Robert Poerschke for the 1974-75 academic year.

New trustee officers include Carl A. Hudson of Bunkie, La., president; A. J. Hewett, Greensboro, N. C., vice president; Henry Bridges, North Carolina, secretary; and Nash Underwood of Wake Forest, treasurer.

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SBC President Lays Wreath  
On Grave of Luther Rice

3/21/74

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., a layman and president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), visited the grave of Luther Rice in rural South Carolina March 17 and laid a wreath at the resting place of the man he described as "the father of the Southern Baptist Convention."

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Cooper described Rice, missionary and itinerant preacher, as "the man who more than any other individual kindled missionary interest in the hearts of Baptist people and in so doing gave them a sense of purpose, showed them the need for organization."

Rice, born in Northboro, Mass. in 1783, traveled throughout the eastern United States, preaching in the churches and raising money to support foreign missionaries Ann and Adoniram Judson and others. Rice found his warmest reception and greatest support among Baptists. He is frequently called "the father of Baptist foreign missions."

Rice became suddenly ill while preaching in South Carolina and died Sept. 25, 1836. He was buried close by the door of Pine Pleasant Baptist Church near Saluda, some 40 miles west of Columbia.

Pine Pleasant Church was organized in 1832 and had a strong congregation in the days when cotton was king among South Carolina farmers. Now the surrounding area is cattle and pulpwood producing country and the congregation has dwindled to 62. Sunday School attendance was 19 on a recent Sunday.

Cooper, in South Carolina for two pulpit engagements, placed the wreath at Luther Rice's grave without fanfare on a mid-March Sunday afternoon. A small gathering of some 25 people were present. Cooper said he had visited the church in Serampore, India, where Rice was baptized by immersion upon becoming a Baptist, he had read sufficiently of his work to regard Rice as the man who laid the groundwork for Baptist denominational life in the United States and he wanted to visit the grave.

At Rice's graveside Cooper said, "Although he was not a Southern Baptist, and never lived to see most of his ideas for mission work incorporated into a Baptist convention, perhaps no person ever lived who contributed more to Baptist work in general and . . . in particular than did Luther Rice.

". . . his dreams . . . have been abundantly fulfilled in the organization and development of the Southern Baptist Convention," Cooper said.

"Southern Baptists would do well to be constantly reminded of the contribution that Luther Rice made in magnifying missions. They need to remember that missions brought us together. . . will hold us together and . . . will keep us in fresh contact with the true source of spiritual energy so necessary to carry on the work and will of our Lord.

Cooper concluded, "It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of (more than) 12 million Southern Baptists, to place this wreath on the grave of Luther Rice as a tribute to his life and work. . ."