

February 28, 1952

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

CALIFORNIA BAPTISTS BUILD
THROUGH BROADWAY PLAN

FRESNO, Calif. --(BP)-- California Southern Baptist churches will spend a minimum of \$1,000,000 annually for the next five years in the construction of new church buildings, according to Dr. S.G. Posey, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

The building is to be financed through the Broadway Plan of Church Finance in California. The Plan was first used in the Broadway Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, thus its name. During the depression nearly twenty years ago, J.S. Bracewell, Houston attorney and Sunday school superintendent in the Broadway church, found himself faced with the problem of an inadequate building and no money with which to build Sunday school rooms.

He conceived the idea of the church issuing bonds bearing five per cent interest payable semi-annually. The church, in turn, would deposit in a local bank \$2.00 per week for each \$1,000 in bonds issued in order to insure the repayment of all bonds with accrued interest within a thirteen-year period.

So successful was the plan that Bracewell has since introduced it to more than 250 churches located in Texas and other states. In the fifteen years the Plan has operated, no church has ever defaulted in the payment of both interest and principal when due.

In July of last year the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, through its Board of Directors, in cooperation with Bracewell, inaugurated the Plan for Southern Baptists in California. Since that time seven of the more than 300 Southern Baptist churches in California have issued bonds (called notes in California) totaling more than \$160,000. Other churches have applications pending which will bring the figure above a quarter of a million dollars.

In making the above announcement the hope was expressed that Baptists in other states with money to invest might see the missionary opportunities in such an investment while at the same time earning a fair return on their investment. It is estimated that 300,000 non-resident Baptist church members live in California. There are also more than 7,000,000 unchurched people in the state.

California Southern Baptists are not asking for gifts. They only hope that persons or churches with money to invest will loan it where it will help extend the kingdom of the Lord. Maturities can be secured that will fit the time schedule of both individuals and churches. Broadway Plan bonds furnish a profitable investment plan for churches as well as individuals.

DAY OF PRAYER CALLED FOR MARCH 26

by J.D. Grey, President
Southern Baptist Convention

"Convinced that our people sincerely believe in the power of prayer; concerned over the moral and spiritual condition of our own nation and the world; considerate of numerous requests that a special day of prayer be designated; I, therefore, call upon Southern Baptists to set aside Wednesday, March 26, 1952, as a Day of Prayer to be spent in confession, repentance, and intercession.

"The appalling conditions and God's cure set out in II Chronicles 7:13-14 are most descriptive of this very hour. Political corruption, social immorality, civic unconsciousness, and spiritual indifference in America are causing doom to take our measure. The pallbearers that bore Ancient Greece and Rome to their graves knock today at America's door. Only praying Christians can turn the tide. Such were they who founded our nation, and such are they who can save it today.

"We must pray for our political leaders from our President to our local peace officer. Let us pray for the Party Conventions soon to meet, that only honorable, decent, God-fearing men will be nominated. Then pray that our citizens will elect the man with the most character, integrity and ability. We must pray for a speedy, just and abiding peace throughout the world. Pray even for our enemies as the Bible enjoins us. Ask for God's forgiveness of our national and personal sins. Let us beg for a spiritual awakening in all our churches, making revitalized and consecrated Christians with a concern for the lost. Remember our pastors who labor among us and for our noble missionaries in fields near and far. Pray for revival in our time!

"Let every church observe this Day of Prayer in the manner it deems best. But let all of them observe it. Let their doors be open throughout the day for the people to come. Let there be around the clock prayer watches set. May there be great all-church prayer services held, especially at the evening hour on Wednesday when we are accustomed to go to God's House for prayer.

"Let us pray, as always, in the name of and for the sake of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ."

--J.D. Grey

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
TO HEAR J.D. GREY

SEATTLE, Wash. --(BP)-- Dr. J.D. Grey, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will give the opening address of the Kiwanis International Convention in Seattle, June 15.

While in the Northwest, Dr. Grey will speak for several area-wide meetings being planned by Southern Baptist churches and at the Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington.