



01-21-56

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

EVANGELISM STORY RATED
1955's MOST IMPORTANT

Announcement that the Southern Baptist Convention will join other Baptist groups in the United States in a six-year, soul-winning effort was the most important Southern Baptist news story in 1955, according to members of the Baptist Press.

Twenty-six editors of Southern Baptist weekly newspapers, who receive the news service, and staff members of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, which sponsors it, balloted on the "Top 10 Stories" of the Convention.

Ballots were counted on a preferential basis. Each member voted for 10 stories and listed them in order of their importance. In counting votes, stories that rated first places received more points than those assigned lower ratings by the members.

The evangelistic effort news story received 205 points, including seven first-place votes. The Baptist World Alliance Congress, which met last summer in London, received 10 first-place votes but only 192 points and second place in the final counting.

The evangelistic effort story received more second and third-place votes, however, which augmented its point total.

Representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention, Inc., and North American Baptist General Conference met in Chicago in December to discuss preliminaries for the six-year program. These groups have a total of 15 million members, more than half of them belonging to Southern Convention churches.

The Baptist World Alliance holds its Congress every five years. More than 2000 Southern Baptists visited the 1955 Congress in London in July. Highlight of the Congress was the visit of Russian Baptist leaders.

Barely Rated Second

The Congress barely rated second place in the final counting because the number three story received 191 points, only one less than the Congress. It was the news story that in 1955 Southern Baptists for the first time in their 110-year history had more than 1000 active foreign missionaries.

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee, which recommends annual budgets for adoption by the eight million members of the Convention, proposed a record-breaking \$11 million budget for 1957. This was rated the fourth best story of 1955.

It and the story of 1000 active foreign missionaries each received two first-place votes from Baptist Press members. The budget story rated only 164 points, however.

Ford Foundation grants to Baptist colleges and hospitals was the year's number one story to three members. It rated fifth in the final counting with 148 points.

Colleges of the Convention may receive more than \$5 million and Southern Baptist hospitals more than \$3½ million, the Ford Foundation announced.

Agency Seeks Change

One of the Convention's largest agencies, its Sunday School Board, with offices and publishing facilities in Nashville, Tenn., will ask the Convention to approve a change in its name to the Board of Education and Publication of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This move to change a name it has carried since 1891 was considered important enough to receive a single first-place vote and 91 points for sixth place.

Only one other story rated a first-place vote---that of three Negro churches joining associations of Southern Baptist churches. The associations, in Texas and New Mexico, previously had only churches with white members. This story earned 82 points and seventh place.

The remaining three stories in the "Top 10" were the move of the Convention's Radio and Television Commission from Atlanta to Fort Worth, eighth place, 80 points; organization of a new state convention within the Southern Baptist Convention, in Colorado, ninth place, 73 points, and ground-breaking for a new campus at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Convention-operated seminary in Berkeley, Calif., tenth, 67 points.

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BP RATINGS*
MAJOR 1955 STORIES IN
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

- 1. United Evangelism Effort (7)-----205
- 2. 1955 Baptist World Congress (10)-----192
- 3. 1000 active Foreign Missionaries (2)-----191
- 4. Proposed \$11 million budget for 1957 (2)-----164
- 5. Ford Foundation grants to Baptists (3)-----148
- 6. Sunday School Board Asks New Name (1)----- 91

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7.	Negro churches Join Associations (1)-----	82
8.	Radio, Television Commission Moves-----	80
9.	Colorado Convention Organized-----	73
10.	Golden Gate New Campus Started-----	67
Second Ten		
11.	C. C. Warren Becomes SBC President-----	50
12.	Open Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla.-----	25
13.	Spring, 1955, Simultaneous Revivals-----	13
14.	Church Finance Workshop-----	12
15.	(tie) Christian Morality Crusade Starts-----	9
	Record Number Converts-----	9
17.	Gifts to Cooperative Program Increase-----	8
18.	Proposed Los Angeles Hospital Dropped-----	7
19.	Home Mission Board Loans to Churches-----	6
20.	Supreme Court Decision-----	3

* Number first-place votes shown in brackets.

RAY ACCEPTS CALL TO
COLORADO CONVENTION

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Willis J. Ray has accepted the position of executive secretary of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. He will assume his new duties Mar. 1.

Ray made known his decision in a letter to James R. Staples, chairman of the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona, and to E. J. Speegle, chairman of the executive board of the Colorado convention.

He is presently executive secretary of the Arizona convention.

Elected unanimously by the executive board of the Colorado convention and by the convention itself, Ray at first declined the position. However, the Colorado board met Dec. 22 and again unanimously elected Ray.

As Arizona secretary, Ray led efforts to organize Southern Baptist churches in Colorado and adjoining states.

The Colorado convention organized last November and has churches in Colorado, the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming. Churches which formerly were affiliated with Arizona and New Mexico state conventions joined the new convention.

"Since God has spoken distinctly, thrice, to go to the five states in the new Colorado Baptist General Convention, we feel it is his will for us to resign our present position as of Feb. 29 to begin life anew in the new convention," Ray said in his letter of resignation.

MISSISSIPPI LAUNCHES
EDUCATION FUND DRIVE

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Southern Baptists in the state are launching a five-year education building fund campaign to raise \$2½ million for immediate building needs at Mississippi Baptist Convention educational institutions.

G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Baptist school at Pineville, La., was inspirational speaker at a kick-off campaign luncheon here.

The funds will be divided six ways, with Mississippi College, Clinton, receiving \$990,000. William Carey College, Hattiesburg, will get \$550,000; Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, and Clarke Memorial College, Newton, each \$310,000; Kittiwake Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, \$250,000, and Baptist student center, Mississippi College, \$90,000.

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EPISCOPAL BISHOP CITES
SOUTHERN BAPTISTS GAINS

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--The presiding bishop of The Protestant Episcopal Church, Henry Knox Sherrill, used Southern Baptist Convention growth as an illustration when he declared that evangelism heads the list of 1956 needs of his denomination.

In an interview with Episcopal Churchnews, published in Richmond, the bishop had this to say about Southern Baptists:

"The Southern Baptists are evangelists who take their religion very seriously, and their growth has been phenomenal." He also spoke of mission work done by Mormons.

Speaking of The Protestant Episcopal Church, he added, "If everyone in the church was an evangelist, think of the growth we would realize."

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CALIFORNIA HOME OPENING
INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

BAKERSFIELD, Calif.--(BP)--The opening of Sunny Crest Baptist Children's Home here has been indefinitely postponed by lack of finances to complete construction.

James E. Carroll, president of the children's home trustees, announced that while all bills have been paid to date, no money is available to continue building a second cottage and a home for the superintendent.

Trustees have agreed to open the children's home when the single cottage already built has been furnished and the regular income is increased to \$3000 a month.

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OFFICIAL COLORADO PAPER

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--The executive board of the Colorado Baptist General Convention has designated the Rocky Mountain Baptist, an unofficial Baptist newspaper published here before the convention was organized last November, as the new convention's official publication.

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TOUR ORGANIZATION HAS
NO OFFICIAL CONNECTION

By the Baptist Press

An organization called "Baptistours" has sent advertisements to some Baptists offering several tours.

The American Baptist Convention received some queries about it from its membership, and replied that the organization is not officially related to the convention nor are the tours sponsored by any of its agencies.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention reports that "Baptistours" has no official connection with it. The Foreign Mission Board is planning some tours but is not operating under this name.

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SPANISH-SPEAKING OFFER
OPPORTUNITY TO TEXANS

FORT WORTH, Tex.--(BP)--The greatest opportunity for evangelistic work in Texas today lies among the state's 2 million Spanish-speaking residents, Texas Baptists were told at their annual evangelistic conference here.

Speaking before 3,100 persons, Rudy Hernandez, evangelist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said:

"Less than 50,000 of the total 2 million persons are evangelical Christians, and more than 95 per cent of the 200,000 Braceros entering Texas each year from Mexico have never heard the gospel preached before."

Hernandez was the leader of the recent "cotton patch crusade" in Pecos, Texas, where more than 1,000 Braceros were won to Christ in less than a week's time. He said Texas Baptists will spend approximately \$500,000 for Spanish-speaking work in the state during 1956.

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FEDERAL PRISONERS SHOW
TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

EL RENO, Okla.--(BP)--The true Christmas spirit prevailed among a group of inmates at federal reformatory here recently.

For five years, C. I. Blackwood, layman from Tulakes Baptist Church, Bethany, Okla., has taught a human relations course and a Sunday school class at the reformatory.

The 31 prisoners in his course decided to give him a dollar apiece to be used for some good purpose at Christmas. The idea mushroomed; other inmates asked to get in on the giving.

That would be all right, the warden declared, provided the money came out of the men's canteen allowances and not out of their earnings nor money from relatives on the outside. This meant a real sacrifice.

They collected \$377.50---and asked Blackwood to use the money at Baptist Boys Ranch Town near Oklahoma City to help provide the kind of guidance that boys at the ranch town receive.

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PASTOR OF NEGRO CHURCH
HEADS MINISTERS' GROUP

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.--(BP)--Robert Lee Brown, Jr., pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, a Negro congregation here, has been elected president of the Albuquerque Baptist Ministers Association.

New Hope Church was one of two Negro Baptist churches in New Mexico voted into fellowship with associations of Southern Baptist churches last August.

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WESTERN FLOOD VICTIMS
PREFER CASH ASSISTANCE

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--Southern Baptists who would like to aid their brethren in California who have suffered losses in recent floods there should send cash donations instead of goods such as furniture and clothing.

This is the recommendation of the board of directors of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, who discussed the severe losses at their recent meetings.

The Baptist church in Yuba City sustained perhaps the heaviest loss. Homes of Baptist people in several cities also were damaged or destroyed.

Contributions are being received in the office of S. G. Posey, executive secretary, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno.

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NEED 3000 CHURCHES

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Texas Southern Baptists will need more than 3000 new churches during the next 20 years, their state executive secretary has declared. Forrest C. Feezor said 120 new churches are needed during 1956.

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BAPTIST HOSPITAL TWINS
ESTABLISH WEIGHT RECORD

NEW ORLEANS, La.--(BP)--A new United States record for weight of twins at birth was established at Southern Baptist Hospital here recently.

Mrs. Earl Layus, whose husband is a fisherman at Bayou Lafourche, La., gave birth to children weighing eight pounds, 14 ounces and 10 pounds, eight ounces --total weight 19 pounds, six ounces.

Mrs. Layus is also the mother of two other children.

The October, 1955, issue of Obstetrical and Gynecological Journal indicates the world's largest twins were born in the 19th century and weighed a total of 35½ pounds. The next largest twins weighed a total of 20.2 pounds.

The third heaviest set, until the recent births here, was a total of 18 pounds.

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January 21, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

.....The general board of evangelism of The Methodist Church has asked the denomination to campaign for a net gain of 400,000 new members a year for the next decade.

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.....An All-American basketball player, Darrell Floyd, has been chosen "Student of the Year" for the second straight time at Furman University, Greenville, S. C. The contest was conducted by the Furman campus newspaper. Floyd is one of the leading college basketball scorers in the United States this year.

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.....P. P. W. Ziemann has become general secretary and treasurer of the Baptist convention of Ontario and Quebec, succeeding T. B. McDormand.

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.....Lansing Tinsley has begun work as pastor of the Baptist church in Evans, Ga. He previously was pastor of a church in Scranton, S. C.

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.....Mary Hardin-Baylor College, women's college at Belton, Tex., will observe its 111th anniversary Feb. 4. A Charter Day celebration is planned.

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....."A church is evangelistic when it has a spiritual concern for sharing the gospel with as many as possible and introducing the Lord to as many as possible. This is something far different from desiring a large and beautiful building, with a large and prosperous membership to pay the debt and provide for maintenance, together with interesting and edifying services and sermons that draw large congregations----though to these also none of us can object. A church is evangelistic only when it shares the active concern of God himself that anybody anywhere anytime may turn to him and have life eternal."---From the Telescope-Messenger, weekly publication of Evangelical United Brethren Church.

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