

April 19, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD
BUYS BUSINESS LANDS

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board recently acquired four pieces of business property across the street from its main 12-story building in downtown Nashville.

Cost of the property, which stretches an entire block, was not announced officially.

Not all of the property becomes immediately available for use due to existing leases, according to James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the board.

"This property has been purchased looking toward the future, with the realization that by the time possession can be secured at the termination of the leases, the Sunday School Board will have need of the property for physical expansion of its operations," Sullivan said.

The board owns a cluster of five office and warehouse buildings in the 100 blocks of North Eighth and Ninth Avenues in Nashville, in the heart of the city.

"The rapid growth of the denomination has necessitated expansion of the board's facilities to enable it to carry out the responsibilities assigned it by the Southern Baptist Convention," the executive secretary reported.

One corner lot, available at once, is being converted into a parking lot capable of handling 96 automobiles. Other property becomes available between 1956 and 1964.

This is the 65th year of the Sunday School Board, organized in Nashville in 1891.

"It sometimes takes a generation to acquire this much business property," Sullivan told employes of the board at their weekly chapel meeting.

"We feel the hand of God directed us because of the four lots being available at the same time for purchase from four different owners," he added.

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PUBLIC GETS TO SEE
NEW FURMAN CAMPUS

GREENVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--Open house will be observed at the new Furman University campus here Tuesday, Apr. 24, including laying the cornerstone for the \$1 million library.

Buildings already constructed will be open to the public, according to Furman President John L. Plyler.

All buildings on the new campus are built of reinforced fireproof concrete, faced with Virginia handmade brick. They are of modified colonial architecture.

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CHRIST BEFORE TROPHY,
DECLARES ALVIN DARK

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Alvin Dark, shortstop and captain of the New York Giants in the National League, has offered a baseball player's version of Matt. 16:26.

"A baseball player may win the World Series," he said, "but if he is not a Christian, in the sight of God he has done nothing."

Passing through Dallas while the Giants were playing spring exhibition games prior to the official season, Dark addressed a Sunday school group of Wilshire Baptist Church.

"A lot of people think winning trophies and pennants is the most important thing in the world to a baseball player, but to me," he continued, "the most important thing in the world is accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior."

Dark is known, too, for being a tither. His mother taught him to give a tenth of his earnings to God when he was making just \$2.50 a week as a paper boy, he declared.

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BILLY GRAHAM PRAISES
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

DALLAS--(BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham recently described the Cooperative Program, financial plan used by the Southern Baptist Convention, as "the greatest means ever devised by the church for giving of one's tithe."

He made the statement in a letter to E. S. James, Dallas, editor of the Baptist Standard, weekly publication of Southern Baptists in Texas.

A member of Dallas' First Baptist Church, Graham said for a number of years he has practiced giving his tithe "to the church where I hold my membership." He has supported the Cooperative Program "without hesitation."

The Cooperative Program, in use by the Convention for 30 years, provides for missionary, benevolent, and educational work of Southern Baptists in the United States and overseas.

Graham also spoke of the Southern Baptist Convention as being "nearer the New Testament church than any other denomination."

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HIS OWN PREACHER

MARLOW, Okla.--(BP)--Arbuary Ritter, pastor of Denton Baptist Church near here, and a senior at Marlow High school, has been asked by classmates to preach his own baccalaureate sermon May 27.

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NEW OFFICERS ELECTED
BY BROTHERHOOD GROUP

MEMPHIS--(BP)--R. L. Sherrick, Memphis insurance official, has been elected chairman of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

He succeeds Judge John W. McCall, well-known Memphis Baptist layman, who has been a member of the Brotherhood Commission for 20 years.

McCall, under provisions of membership on Southern Baptist Convention boards and agencies, will rotate off the Commission this year and be ineligible for re-election.

M. F. Keathley, Memphis bakery executive, was elected vice-president. The Brotherhood Commission has offices in Memphis.

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folks & facts.....

.....Rufus L. Robinson has resigned pastorate of College Ave. Baptist Church, Douglas, Ga., to accept call of Main St. Baptist Church, Bartow, Fla.

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.....Baptist Hospital, Alexandria, La., recently was accredited fully by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

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.....Henry S. Stroupe, chairman of the department of social sciences, Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C., is author of a newly-published book, "The Religious Press in the South Atlantic States, 1802-1865."

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.....Virginia Baptists recently honored one of their educational leaders, Charles L. Harman, of Bluefield, Va. Harman is president of Bluefield College. He also is president of the Virginia Baptist General Association (convention) and of the Southern Association of Junior Colleges. The recognition service was held at First Baptist Church, Bluefield.

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