

September 20, 1956

New Orleans Seminary
Plans \$500,000 Chapel

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--Plans for a \$500,000 chapel at New Orleans Baptist Seminary were announced recently by Roland Q. Leavell, seminary president.

A monument to Baptist forefathers will be part of the building. The spire atop the oldest Baptist church in America is going to be reproduced on the proposed seminary chapel.

The spire towers 185 feet above First Baptist Church, of Providence, R. I., where the name of Roger Williams "its first pastor and first asserter of liberty of conscience" is permanently inscribed.

"The Seminary hopes to dedicate its new 1700-seat chapel in October, 1958, exactly 320 years after the Providence church was founded by Roger Williams," Leavell said.

"The 1957-58 session will be New Orleans Seminary's 40th anniversary," he added. "We hope and pray that we can raise \$500,000 for the chapel during 1956 and 1957, the entire amount coming by the method suggested in the Southern Baptist Convention's business and financial plan."

Mayor deLesseps Morrison, of New Orleans, said, "We in New Orleans are very pleased that the Baptist Theological Seminary is starting a drive to build a new chapel.

"I feel that the plan to build a spire similar to the one atop the old Baptist Meeting House in Providence, R. I., is a very real symbol of the historical ties which exist between the people of New Orleans and the people of Providence."

The chapel itself will be constructed in the French Colonial (Early Louisiana) style in keeping with the campus architecture.

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Faculty Honors Leavell
For 10 Years' Service

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--The faculty of New Orleans Baptist Seminary paid tribute to Seminary President Roland Q. Leavell recently for his decade of service.

In a surprise ceremony, Professor C. Penrose St. Amant, faculty secretary, read a letter signed by the faculty members who expressed appreciation for "ten years of distinguished leadership."

Leavell assumed his duties as president of the Seminary on July 1, 1946.

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Sunday School Board
Buys \$800,000 Site

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board may have doubled its property holdings in downtown Nashville with a recent agreement to buy a three-block-long warehouse owned by two railroad companies.

The 250,000-square foot property is to be bought from the Louisville and Nashville, and Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroads for an estimated \$800,000.

Some of the property will be available immediately for Sunday School Board operations. Its future use in Baptist development in Nashville depends on outcome of a survey the Board is making.

A $1\frac{1}{2}$ -block section of the warehouse property is directly behind property already owned and developed by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The warehouses are alongside railroad spurs.

James L. Sullivan, board executive secretary, reported the Baptist agency also has air rights which extend behind the warehouses and over L&N and NC&StL lines approaching Nashville's depot.

This gives the Board privilege of extending upper floors of any future buildings out over the tracks.

The new agreement to purchase follows by only a few months an announcement that the board had bought several tracts of other nearby property from the railroads and other firms.

The survey being made will determine future building needs for Baptist offices here, Sullivan said.

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BP folks & facts...

.....A contract for construction of a chapel at Baton Rouge (La.) General Hospital has been let for \$18,233. Another \$5000 will be spent to furnish the chapel at the hospital operated by Louisiana Baptists.

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.....Henry Morrison, administrator of Valley Baptist Hospital, Harlingen, Tex., received one of the highest honors in the hospital field recently when he became a fellow in the American College of Hospital Administrators.

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California Aims For
Budget of \$850,676

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--Messengers to the annual session of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California Oct. 30 will be submitted a record \$850,676 budget for 1957 for approval.

The proposed budget, accepted by the convention's directors at their meeting here recently, exceeds the current budget by \$146,376.

Directors approved the transfers of two denominational workers. A. C. Turner, former general missionary in the Oakland-San Francisco Bay area and for six years the superintendent of cooperative missions and stewardship, will become superintendent of missions for Orange County, Calif., on Dec. 1.

Hurchell H. Stagg was elected to serve as superintendent of area missions in San Francisco Peninsula Association, subject to approval of the association and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Stagg has been a director of the department of evangelism.

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Church Near Louisville
May Be Historical Site

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Long Run Baptist Church near Louisville, now in its 111th year, may become a national shrine.

Thomas C. Fisher, Washington attorney formerly of Louisville, has asked for a six-month option to buy the church affiliated with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Interest in making the church a shrine was shown after church members announced plans to build a new church a half-mile away. The old building, they indicated, might be destroyed if no one was interested in it becoming a historical showpiece.

Attorney Fisher said he hoped to secure funds to restore and maintain Long Run Church. Two representatives of the U. S. Department of Interior have visited the church and been shown old church records by Pastor Roscoe C. Thornbury, of Anchorage, Kentucky.

Some people believe that the grandfather of President Abraham Lincoln is buried beneath the church.

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Mississippi Colleges
Face 'Critical Need'

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--The needs of state Baptist colleges and the operating budget for 1957 were items decided upon by the Mississippi Baptist Convention board here recently.

The budget of \$1,900,000 for the next year is \$225,000 greater than the present one, and is subject to adoption by the annual state convention session here later this year.

Also subject to a convention session vote is the board's decision to borrow \$600,000 for "critical building needs" at four colleges operated by Mississippi Southern Baptists.

This money would be repaid from Christian education capital funds in 1958, 1959, and 1960. The loan would make money available at once to these schools.

The Baptist Record, state denominational weekly newspaper, was authorized to increase its rates for the first time in 20 years. The rates increase 50 cents a year on different subscription plans.

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Golden Gate Seminary
Registers Record 307

BERKELEY, Calif.--(BP)--Reporting a 15 per cent increase over its past record enrolment, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary here has 307 students registered for its 1956-57 academic year. The school is 12 years old and is in its fifth year under President Harold K. Graves.

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Group Studies Ways To
Organize New Churches

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Ways in which Southern Baptists can establish 30,000 new churches and missions were discussed at a special committee meeting here recently.

The "30,000 Committee," as it is known, met on call of C. C. Warren, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and general chairman of the special committee.

In addition to work at Convention level, the committee will work through state Baptist organizations, associations of churches, and individual churches.

It hopes that every Southern Baptist church will have a mission church or preaching point under its guidance. It would like to see more simultaneous programs of church establishment similar to the one in California in July.

At that time, California Southern Baptists organized 110 mission churches in a single Sunday. Other states have announced plans for such programs.

Printed material will include tracts on how the state organizations, associations, and churches each can function in the effort to establish 30,000 churches and missions.

The special program will be related to the Baptist Jubilee Advance also. In the Baptist Jubilee Advance, Southern Baptists and other Baptist conventions in North America are cooperating in a program to win more Americans to Christ.

The Jubilee Advance will climax in 1964, the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work on a national scale in North America. Each participating convention is working its own program of evangelism and growth for the Jubilee period.

The 30,000 goal will include establishment of 10,000 churches. Other units to be organized will include mission churches, branch Sunday schools, preaching stations, and chapels.

Wade Bryant, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., proposed that the committee set a goal of \$500 million to be raised outside present Convention financial channels. He would embody some of the features of the old Baptist Hundred Thousand Club in which members contributed a certain amount over and above their regular offerings.

M. A. Huggins, executive secretary of North Carolina Baptists, suggested an overall goal of \$500 million for the Cooperative Program including a final-year goal of \$100 million for 1964. Regular 1964 offerings would be supplemented by a special offering for the Cooperative Program.

These proposals should be brought to the attention of the Southern Baptist committee on Baptist Jubilee Advance for their consideration, Chairman Warren declared.

Baptist World Alliance President Theodore F. Adams, and R. Paul Caudill, pastor, First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., reported on recent trips visiting Baptists abroad.