

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

February 3, 1957

Illinois Baptist Work
Product Of Many Years

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--The years 1906-07 were busy ones for Baptists in Illinois.

Organized Southern Baptist work began when members of the denomination met in Pinckneyville Jan. 31, 1907, to form the Illinois Baptist State Association. Their organizational meeting followed by only three months the formation of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, which has become affiliated with the present American Baptist Convention.

The first Baptist church of any kind in Illinois dates to 1796, when the Baptist Church of New Design (near E. St. Louis) was organized. Work in the New Design community had been in progress however since 1787.

B. F. Rodman served as first executive secretary, or financial secretary as the position was then known, of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

In October, 1909, the Association voted to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention in home and foreign mission work. In 1910, at Baltimore, Md., messengers from Illinois were seated at the Southern Baptist Convention. Illinois thus officially affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

At the beginning of Southern Baptist work in Illinois, there were 226 churches with a membership of approximately 21,000. In contrast, in 1956 there were 755 Southern Baptist churches in Illinois with membership of 137,052, compared with 341 American Baptist Convention churches having about 105,000 members.

The Illinois Baptist State Association sponsors a Baptist Children's Home in Carmi, a chair of Bible at the University of Illinois in Champaign, and the Southern Illinois College of the Bible, connected with Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Long-range state association projects include a goal of 1,000 Southern Baptist churches, mission receipts of \$1 million, and evangelization of the Chicago area.

Illinois Baptists hope that the proposed Southern Baptist sixth seminary will be located in Chicago.

For their Jubilee Year, 1957, Southern Baptists of Illinois have set as their goals 10,000 baptisms, establishment of 157 missions, giving \$550,000 through the

more

Cooperative Program to world missions, and organization of the 800th church in Illinois.

Illinois Southern Baptists will complete their 10-day spring evangelistic crusade on May 26, the Sunday on which sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union open in Chicago.

The state association sponsors work in northern Indiana, where 60 Southern Baptist churches are located.

-30-

Shorter College Soon To Be Co-Educational

ROME, Ga.--(BP)--Shorter College, a Georgia Baptist college for women established in 1873, will become co-educational at the beginning of the fall term.

George A. Christenberry, president, said temporary dormitory facilities will be provided this fall for a minimum of 50 men students.

Shorter offers degrees in liberal arts and music, and pre-professional training. It enrolled about 400 co-eds last year.

-30-

Bottoms Fund Provides \$600,000 To Baptists

TEXARKANA, Ark.--(BP)--A trust agreement made by the late Mrs. Ida M. Bottoms, a Baptist of Texarkana, last year provided \$600,000 to Southern Baptist agencies and institutions.

The Texarkana, Tex., National Bank, trustee, reported that \$150,000 went to Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, and \$75,000 each went to Buckner Orphans Home, Dallas; Bottoms Baptist Orphanage, named for the donor, Monticello, Ark.; Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth; the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Arkansas Baptist Hospital, Little Rock; and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The trust agreement was made in 1944. It previously has made funds available to other Southern Baptist work including Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex.; Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Central Baptist College, Conway, Ark. (no longer operating), and Baptist Bible Institute (now New Orleans Baptist Seminary), New Orleans.

-30-

Arizona Secretary Of W.M.U. Retires

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Mrs. Charles M. Griffin, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Baptist General Convention of Arizona, has announced she will retire April 20. Mrs. Griffin reaches retirement age in March.

-30-

Foreign Mission Board,
W.M.U. Open Convention

CHICAGO--(BP)--The president's address and a joint presentation of the Woman's Missionary Union and Foreign Mission Board highlight the opening session of the 1957 Southern Baptist Convention here May 28.

The opening session in International Amphitheater will start at 6:45 P.M. It marks the first time that the Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary, and Convention proper have held a joint session, observers believe.

Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, will preach the annual Convention sermon Wednesday morning. Alternate preacher is Carl E. Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex.

The Convention agenda, which is subject to final approval at the opening session of the Convention, does not include afternoon sessions. There may be a session however on Friday afternoon if Convention business demands additional time.

Ira H. Peak, pastor of Toulminville Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., chairman of the committee drafting the program, said morning sessions will open at 8:45 and end at 1 P. M. Evening sessions start at 6:45 and close at 9:30.

The Convention's final session will be held on Friday night, May 31, rather than on Saturday as customary in the past. The earlier closing time will permit church pastors and workers to reach their homes to lead Sunday worship services.

Other special addresses will be made by Wallace W. Bassett, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.; G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; Sydnor L. Stealey, president of Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., and Glenn L. Archer, director of Protestants and Other Americans Unit d for Separation of Church and State, Washington.

Verl L. Capps, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., will lead Convention music. Pastor of the Charlotte church is Convention President C. C. Warren.

-30-

Gregory Chosen To Head
Child Care Executives

GREENWOOD, S. C.--(BP)--Supt. E. J. Gregory of the Mexican Baptist Orphans Home, San Antonio, Tex., has been elected president of the Child Care Executives of Southern Baptists, which met here. He succeeds Supt. Sam Ed Bradley of Spring Meadows Home, Middletown, Ky.

Supt. Sam Smith and the staff of Connie Maxwell Children's Home were hosts for the meeting which attracted 50 child care leaders and their wives from most of the states in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Supt. Silas Bishop of the Baptist Home for Children at Jacksonville, Fla., was elected secretary and treasurer to succeed Supt. Wade B. East of the Baptist Children's Home, Carmi, Ill. East had served in the post since the organization was founded nine years ago.

Next year's meeting will be held at Biloxi, Miss., with the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage of Jackson as host.

-30-

Hays And Lord To Speak
To Pastors' Conference

CHICAGO--(BP)--"God's Man in Today's World" is the theme for the 27th annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference to be held here May 27-28. Sessions will convene in the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

Among the featured program personalities are U. S. Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.), Baptist layman who is chairman of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and F. Townley Lord, London, England, past president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Several thousand pastors of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention will attend the two-day conference. The conference is preliminary to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

James P. Wesberry, president of the Pastors' Conference and pastor of Morningside Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., announced that the program will start at 10:30 A.M. Monday.

The pastors will meet morning, afternoon, and evening on Monday and hold morning and afternoon sessions Tuesday. The Southern Baptist Convention begins its sessions Tuesday night in International Amphitheater.

Several dozen pastors will bring addresses on the conference program. The addresses will center around the pastor's responsibility -- as "God's man"-in various phases of his work.

Theron H. King, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Frankfort, Ill., and president of the Illinois Baptist State Association, will welcome the ministers to Chicago. The Illinois Association is host to the Convention and its associated meetings.

Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary of the Illinois Association, Carbondale, will describe the 50 years since Southern Baptists formed a statewide organization in Illinois. The Illinois Association observes its jubilee year in 1957.

The Atlanta, Ga., Baptist Association choir; chapel singers from the Baptist college of Bible associated with Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and a male quartet from University Baptist Church, Carbondale, will furnish special music.

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

February 3, 1957

..... R. M. Hawkins has been appointed head of the department of education at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex., effective Sept. 1.

-0-

.....George D. McClelland has resigned pastorate of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kans., effective Feb. 15, to accept pastorate of White City Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

-0-

.....J. Howard Williams, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president, will deliver the keynote address at the National Conference on Church and State at Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 5. The National Conference is sponsored by Protestants and Other Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

-30-