

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

March 6, 1957

Chicago The Center
Of Baptist Attention

CHICAGO--(BP)--From now until May, when the Southern Baptist Convention will hold its annual meeting here, the eyes of all Southern Baptists will be focussed on Chicago.

Southern Baptist work in Chicago and the surrounding area is still in its early stages. At the present time, in the larger metropolitan area, there are 53 churches with a membership of 6,266.

The largest church in the vicinity is the First Southern Baptist Church of Hammond, Ind., with 579 members, with the second largest church Black Oak Baptist Church, near Gary, Ind., with 527 members.

Baptist work began in Chicago in 1833, when the First Baptist Church with 15 members was organized by the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

Southern Baptists did not begin work in Chicago, however, until 1916. A group of Southern Baptists from a church in Southern Illinois organized a new church in the North Chicago area. The church is still functioning.

It was not, however, until 1943 that the Great Lakes Association which served as the Southern Baptist association for metropolitan Chicago, was formed by six churches. In 1955 the second association, Lake Michigan Association, was created.

The early Southern Baptist churches in the Chicago area were not planted by the Illinois Baptist State Association. Rather, they resulted from individual Southern Baptist people moving to Chicago. These people banded together for Christian fellowship, later constituted churches, and sought affiliation with Southern Baptists.

There are other Baptist groups in Chicago, as well as Southern Baptists. At the present time there are 191 Negro Baptist churches in the city, 73 American Baptist churches, and perhaps 50 churches of other Baptist groups.

Southern Baptists in Chicago are optimistic about the future. They believe a speeded up program of evangelization will result from the Home Mission Board spending \$100,000 in 1957 and \$250,000 in 1958 to evangelize American cities.

Southern Baptist churches in Chicago are planning a 12-day simultaneous evangelistic crusade ending May 26, the opening day of the Woman's Missionary Union convention.

GBC Registration Cards
To Be Available Soon

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Registration cards to be used in certifying messengers to the 1957 Southern Baptist Convention have been sent to state mission secretaries throughout the Convention.

It will be necessary for all messengers to have these cards. They must be properly filled in and signed by either the church clerk or the moderator, according to Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

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Baptist Leaders Plan
To Attend Men's Meet

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--A large number of Southern Baptist leaders plan to attend the first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men to be held here in September.

The heads of all 19 Southern Baptist Convention agencies, along with most state Baptist convention leaders, have already indicated their plans to attend, George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the sponsoring Brotherhood Commission, said.

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Queen Chosen For Post
With Illinois Baptists

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.--(BP)--A. C. Queen, pastor of Temple Baptist Church here, has been elected new secretary of the department of stewardship and promotion of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Queen, who is succeeding E. H. Moore in the promotion of stewardship, will assume his new duties on April 1.

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Armstrong New Worker
With Calif. Baptists

EL DORADO, Ark.--(BP)--D. Wade Armstrong, pastor, Second Baptist Church here, has resigned to become head of the evangelism department for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Armstrong plans to spend half his time in the offices promoting evangelistic work throughout California, and the other half on the field.

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Allen Selected Head
Of Advisory Council

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Advisory Council on Work with Negroes has elected Clifton J. Allen, of Nashville, as its chairman.

Allen, editorial secretary with the Baptist Sunday School Board, succeeds T. B. Maston, professor of social ethics at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth.

The Council elected Eugene L. Hill, secretary of missionary education and promotion for the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, as vice-chairman. R. Orin Cornett, executive secretary of the Education Commission, Nashville, will serve as secretary.

The Advisory Council operates in a semi-official capacity. Its members represent various Southern Baptist Convention agencies and state Baptist convention boards who work with Negro Baptists.

The Council meets annually to review and co-ordinate work of its participating groups. It may suggest courses of action but these are not binding on any participating agency.

The Council will invite the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the presidents of the two major Negro Baptist conventions (the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., and the National Baptist Convention of America unincorporated) to attend its next session.

The next session will be held in Nashville Feb. 24-25, 1958.

A committee composed of Maston; Cornett; A. C. Miller, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville; Guy Bellamy, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Victor T. Glass, president of American Baptist Seminary, Nashville, and Clyde Hart, secretary of Negro work for Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock, will meet with Negro Baptists to discuss the education of Negro ministers.

The Council also asked Miller and Glass to compile a list of all work the Southern Baptist Convention and state Baptist conventions are doing with Negro Baptists. They will report next year.

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Gardner-Webb College
Sets Anniversary Plans

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--Gardner-Webb College, Baptist junior college here, has five major events planned for 1957 in celebration of its golden anniversary.

The five include publication of the college's history, a "health fair," May Day festivities, a pageant, and "Founders' Day."

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Baptist Film Stymied
By Lack Of Finances

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Committee on Baptist Film reports it has been unable "to work out a practical plan by which" major Baptist groups in America can finance a film on some distinctive Baptist belief.

The report of the committee has been released by Louie D. Newton, pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church here. Newton has served as chairman of the committee, created in 1954 when the Southern Baptist Convention held its annual session in St. Louis.

The committee requests the 1957 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, which will meet in Chicago May 28-31, to discharge it.

The committee says that its consideration of film topics centered on religious liberty. It feels "convinced that a short film on religious liberty at this time might lead to a major film on that vital theme as a feature for the celebration of the 1964 anniversary."

Almost 18 million Baptists in North America will observe 1964 as the sesquicentennial of organized Baptist work on a national scale on this continent.

The film committee says "several agencies of our (Southern Baptist) Convention are now producing films which are proving most effective."

It expressed hope that the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board "will pursue the suggestion of providing a film on religious liberty."

"Conferences with other Baptist bodies developed a keen and fraternal interest . . . (and) we believe that there has been definite value in these discussions, and it is altogether possible that something may be done along this line in the future," the committee adds.

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COMMITTEE ON BAPTIST FILM
Report to 1957 Session of Southern Baptist Convention

Appointed at the St. Louis Convention, 1954, "to consider the advisability and practicability of producing a film or films of some Baptist personality..." etc., our committee has held numerous meetings, including conferences with leaders of the major Baptist bodies throughout the world, in an effort to determine what might be done in a cooperative undertaking to emphasize some distinctive Baptist principle.

Conferences with other Baptist bodies developed a keen and fraternal interest in the suggestion, but we were not able to work out a practical plan by which an undertaking of this scope would be financed. We believe that there has been definite value in these discussions, and it is altogether possible that something may be done along this line in the future.

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We are delighted to report that several agencies of our Convention are now producing films which are proving most effective. We commend the work of each of these agencies. It is our hope that the Sunday School Board will pursue the suggestion of providing a film on Religious Liberty - the theme which our committee considered as the subject of a major film. We are convinced that a short film on Religious Liberty at this time might lead to a major film on that vital theme as a feature for the celebration of the 1964 anniversary.

Grateful to the Convention for the privilege of making this study, we recommend that our committee be discharged, suggesting, if we may, that the Convention will again authorize such study, if and when it may appear desirable.

Louie D. Newton, Chairman
Floy Barnard
Doak S. Campbell
Fon H. Scofield, Jr.
Earl Waldrup
L. O. Griffith
Albert McClellan
Mrs. W. C. Tyler
Baker James Cauthen
Courts Redford

J. L. Sullivan
Porter Routh
Duke McCall
J. Howard Williams
Roland Q. Leavell
Sydnor L. Stealey
Harold K. Graves
Chester L. Quarles
David M. Gardner

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.....Waldo E. Wood, former missionary for East Liberty Association, Alabama, has become pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Lake City, Fla.

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.....Edwin H. Tuller, executive secretary of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention, has been elected general director and associate general secretary of the American Baptist Convention's Council of Missionary Cooperation.

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.....John T. Sisemore, director, department of religious education, Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, Portland, will become superintendent of adult Sunday school work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., on April 15.

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Note to Baptist State Paper Editors:

The Baptist Press can supply upon request the following pictures, taken at the recent meeting of the Advisory Council on Southern Baptist Work with Negroes in Nashville:

1. T. B. Maston, Council chairman for 1956-57, with Guy Bellamy, Home Mission Board. Informal, unposed shot, both men sitting at table with papers spread before them during a recess in the Council meeting. Crops horizontally.
2. Discussion picture. Participants in discussion are from l. to r., T. B. Maston, SW Seminary, retiring chairman; C. J. Allen, BSSB, new chairman; Eugene L. Hill, FMB, new secretary. They are seated in chairs (not at table) engaged in conversation. Crops vertically.

These will be supplied in 5 X 7 enlargements to any editor who can use them in his paper.

Baptist Press