

July 2, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

## "AND SO WE CAME TO ROME"

by J.W. Storer

The world is a small place and space has lost its distance, Mrs. Storer and I left Tulsa Sunday afternoon, the 13th, and in four hours were in New York City looking at the extended palm of the bell boy's hand. I do not know anywhere a plane equal for comfort to the American Airlines DC7, and the fact that one of our own First Baptist church girls was a stewardess added to our comfort. The next day we left New York at 5 p.m. and arrived in Paris non-stop an hour and a half ahead of schedule--so had to stay there at Orley Field until the scheduled time of departure. But we were right on the dot, arriving in Rome at 4 p.m. the 15th.

There is nothing but monotony on an overseas flight, the plane takes an altitude so high that the ocean, if clouds permit, can scarcely be seen. We crossed via T.W.A., a very comfortable ship, with close attention paid to the passengers as to food and drink--complimentary cocktails are offered--and with two exceptions accepted! Wine with meals, and free cigarettes--and at night berths are made down much as our Pullmans. The constant roar of the engine does not make for anything but cat naps, at least for me.

We were met at the Rome airport by the Dewey Moores, who are wonderful people, Tar Heels and Washington, D.C. Dr. Moore is our S.B.C. "head man" in Italy, speaks Italian fluently, as does Mrs. Moore. They took us to the Flora Hotel--very nice, but not too ritzy. Room and table comforts quite satisfactory. Then, thru Sunday, the 20th, we were on the go every minute.

I preached in three churches and visited four more; of course, went to the Orphanage and the Armstrong Memorial School for young women. Our churches are small as churches go in the States, and with a few exceptions meet in rather inaccessible locations. The pastors are greatly handicapped by shortness of financial support--which is but a reflection of the general economic condition of Italy. There are no Sunday schools as we know them--and there seems to be in so far as my conversations with the brethren would indicate, a lack of evangelism--they tell me when the pastor reaches the end of his sermon, he says, "amen," and means it. No invitation, or appeal.

Of course, many of us never seem to reach the end so we can say "amen," or perhaps we reach the end and don't know it, tho the congregation may. The preaching thru an interpreter is not too satisfactory, but at the close the

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people are very effusive in appreciation. It is somewhat disconcerting to be kissed on both cheeks by the deacons--unfortunately, they have no deaconesses. Just imagine being kissed by one's deacons at the close of a sermon on tithing!

There is so much need for everything. Some particular needs I want to take up in person when we do get back to the States. But since the Baptist Press is sending this to the state papers, I would like to make a suggestion to the editors. It is concerning our Italian Seminary at Rivoli. The correct address: Scuolo Theolica Battieta, Via Luigi Colla, 4 Rivoli, Turin, Italy. The library now recieves the Biblical Recorder, The Index, and the Western Recorder. If the editors of our other state papers would be so kind as to send theirs it would help these young men to get a feeling of Baptist importance, which, under the shadow of the Roman Catholic Cathedrals, propaganda, etc; is so all pervading.

The great difficulty is to get students who have had proper educational preparation. The appalling illiteracy makes for poor citizenship via a growing facist power. They tell me that there is more actual danger that Italy is more facist now than under Benito M.T. and the backing of the clerical group is thrown against the communists because they threaten the facists.

I visited two of our Baptist churches out from Turin nearly on the French border. The pastors were so proud to have the visitor from the Southern Baptist Convention and I was deeply moved by their prayers, though, I did not understand a word. The tie of the Spirit was plainly felt and for each other it was a blessed tie. Roman Catholicism is a political power but it has nothing to give the people in the realm of the spirit. Can there be a revival in, shall we say, Rome, to which Paul wrote the greatest of his letters, and from which he wrote his last word? If the answer is in the negative, then there is no hope for Italy. More later as I have opportunity, and it will be from Ruschlikon, where we arrived last night, for the European Baptist Pastors School, with some seventy-five pastors assembled.

The baptistry at Naples has a concrete dividing partition. The pastor stands in the dry, and reaches over--baptizes the candidate. Saves buying baptism boots!

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127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee  
THE KANSAS CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS  
ADDS 100TH CHURCH

By N. J. Westmoreland  
Exec. Secy-Treas.

The 100th church to become a part of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists was organized June 20, at El Dorado, Kansas. Constituted with twenty-four charter members, it will be known as the Immanuel Southern Baptist Church, with Rev. R. H. Maulsby as pastor.

Missionary co-operation has been the key word in the development of this new church. It was begun on January 24, 1954, as a mission of the First Baptist Church, Burden, Kansas, whose pastor is Rev. S. R. Belew. The sponsoring church has invested about \$1200 in the new work. Almost \$1500 has been contributed by the Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, under the leadership of Dr. George D. McClelland, pastor. The Baptist Home Mission Board has allocated \$100 per month for six months to the new work. The First Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas, under the leadership of pastor M. B. Carroll, has voted to underwrite a loan of \$15,000 for a new building, to be secured from the Baptist Church Loan Corporation of Texas. An acre of ground is being bought, with additional land available, in a new section of the city of El Dorado. On it the new church plans to erect the first two units of a building of architectural design known as plan C-575, supplied by the Sunday School Board's Department of Church Architecture. The first structure will have a capacity of 250 in the auditorium and in its educational facilities. The first action taken in the sponsorship of the mission was the purchase of a new brick parsonage at a cost of \$13,500. The new church voted to give 10 per cent of its regular offerings to the Cooperative Program.

The city of El Dorado is located in the heart of one of Kansas' oldest oil producing centers, where wells have flowed and pumped for nearly forty years. It is the home of the Skelly Oil Company and one of its largest refineries. A second large refinery is located there and a third only thirteen miles away. The city is bordered on the east by the renowned blue stem grazing area to which thousands of head of Texas cattle are shipped each summer to be fattened for the fall markets. To the west is the richest area of the Kansas wheat belt. The Chamber of Commerce estimates the population at above 12,000.

Numerous interesting facts are related to the development of the 100th church to participate in the program of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists. It was sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Burden, which has been co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention for thirty-five years. From 1919 through 1945, it gave \$13,422.44 to Southern Baptist causes through the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. The first meetings leading to the organization of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists were held with the Burden church, November 26-27, 1945. It was the sponsor of the first new church in the convention (the eighth in number) organized June 20, 1946, and through that church, the First Southern Baptist Church, Winfield, has become the grandmother of four other churches, including one to be organized June 27.

Rev. R. H. Maulsby, the pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado, is a product of Southern Baptist missionary advance in Kansas. In 1935, he was one of the first two persons to be baptized into the fellowship of the newly constituted Emmanuel Baptist Church, Coffeyville, Kansas. He had been a minister of the gospel in another denomination and became the second pastor of the Coffeyville church. He has devoted a major portion of his ministry to the welfare of Southern Baptist churches in Kansas.

Within a period of exactly eight years, the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists has grown from seven to one hundred churches. In that period, it can report that for every thirty-one days, it has gained one church, 150 members and church property valued at \$21,000.

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Baptist Press

KENTUCKY HAS  
LARGEST MENS' MEET

CEDARMORE, Kentucky (BP)--The largest gathering of Baptist laymen ever seen in Kentucky is what Dr. Will Cooke Boone said of a crowd of 1624 men gathered at Cedarmore for the Brotherhood Assembly. The meeting was organized and led by Lucien E. Coleman, Sr., state Brotherhood secretary for Kentucky.

JOINT COMMITTEE  
TO PROMOTE RAs

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--A special joint committee representing the Woman's Missionary Union and the Baptist Brotherhood of the South has been formulated for administering Royal Ambassador work until such time the RA organization is completely transferred to the Brotherhood. John W. McCall, Memphis, was elected chairman of the committee and Ruth Provence, North Carolina, vice-chairman. Other members are: for the W.M.U., Alma Hunt, Margaret Bruce, both of Alabama, Mrs. George R. Martin, Virginia, and Mrs. Mattie Morgan; for the men, George Schoreder, R. L. Sherrick, Ned Smith, all of Memphis, Tenn. and Gordon T. Ryan, Texas.