

July 23, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

KANSAS PASSES CENTURY MARK WITH
ORGANIZATION OF 101 CHURCH

WICHITA, Kans.--(BP)--Kansas Southern Baptists passed the century mark recently with the organization of the 101 church at Douglass. Henry Cox, mission pastor, was called to continue as pastor of the church.

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

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CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE
SET FOR RIDGECREST, AUGUST 19-25

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Christianity and World Peace are the subjects for discussion at the Christian Life conference to be held at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, August 19-25. The daily conferences will feature one main address, followed by an open forum.

Those who will bring addresses are: J. B. Weatherspoon, chairman of the Commission, Louisville, Ky.; Brooks Hays, Little Rock, Ark., McNeil Poteat, pastor, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C., and A. C. Miller, executive secretary, Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

The annual business session of the Commission will be held in the afternoon and evening of August 19-20.

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NEW MEXICO BAPTISTS
SECURE BOYS' RANCH

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, N. Mex.--(BP)--Boys' Ranch near La Joya, N. Mex., has been taken over by the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. The ranch, patterned after the famous Boys' Town in Nebraska, has a total value of approximately \$250,000 including some \$30,000 worth of livestock and buildings valued at \$72,000.

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BAPTIST WORK IN GERMANY
Fourth in a series
BY: J. W. Storer

We left Zurich on Saturday, July 3, by train for Stuttgart. Only those who have ridden on these European trains can get the flavor of them--a statement to be taken literally. Crossing from the peace and quiet of Ruschleton into the wide world of European week-end travel is an experience. J. D. Hughey, Jr., one of our splendid men in the seminary at Ruschleton took us the six mile trip to the station, saw to it we were safely aboard our second class, and talked in the low Dutch used by the Swiss like a Dutch uncle. He is such a wonderful chap, and was so helpful to us, as were the Watts, the Peacocks, the Nordenboughs, and everyone. By the time you read this the Hugheys and the Nordenboughs will be in the States.

Crossing the Swiss border into Germany took us through the French zone, but nothing of difficulty presented itself. I was asked if I spoke German and when I said "nein" they left with a shrug of dismissal. The scenery is beautiful--mountains, waterfalls, busy farm life, men, women, and cows all working. Crops looked lush and prosperous--though the marks of hardship are everywhere. We reached Stuttgart in the early afternoon where Chap. (Major) Thomas Whitmire was waiting at the station to take us to the Graff Zeppelin Hotel, which is operated by the military for its officers, their dependents en route, and certified civilians.

Before leaving the States I had been "screened" and came at once (and will be until leaving Europe) under military jurisdiction. My "green" (U.S. money) is changed to military script and I carry a card for "organization chapel Sec. HA Com. APC 403."

Stuttgart was one of the most bombed out cities of Germany, so they tell me and it is bad though no worse than Zurich. We went to Chap. Whitmire's chapel on Sunday for service, a military car and young Presbyterian lad, Wilson Murphy from New Jersey, being our carrier. It was the close of Vacation Bible School, and I had a few words to them after which I made about fifty feet of color movies of them leaving the chapel. Their program was like our own, even though the people (military) are of all denominations, Chap. Whitmire is a Baptist from South Carolina--a Truman man. Then instead of eating in the officer's club, I asked if we could not eat in the "non-com." and enlisted mess. They were happy to have us and we went through the spotless kitchen, ushered by the colored mess sergeant. Here they use refugee Germans for K.P. and as waiters, a happy turn for everyone concerned. The food was

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excellent for which we paid in script the sum of seventy-five cents--full chicken dinner from tomato juice to cherry pie, seconds if you wanted it and could contain same. Then we went to a fine Baptist home, a Col. Vickers, Baptists from Atlanta and members of Louie D. Newton's church--and proud of it. We had a look at their new pride and joy--a boy, whose three sisters are in a great way of spoiling him. The Vickers are lovely people and the colonel holds a vital key post in the occupation force stationed in the area around Stuttgart. At night I preached at the doron-torou chapel, and had a great joy in doing so. It was packed with enlisted men and a sprinkling of Germans, most of them refugees from the Eastern part of Germany. There were men from almost everywhere--one from my own church, whom I did not know was anywhere near. Three men stood at the close confessing Christ as their Saviour. As would be assumed, the men are from every part of our nation and as might also be expected nearly everyone of them has his individual idea of what is right and wrong with the international situation, and his own kaserne (a German word adopted by the military meaning loosely "camp") and those over him. I was interested in getting the slant of these men on affairs at home. They are kept informed by radio and the daily "Stars and Stripes," and told me things I had lost track of since we left the States. Many of their comments must be omitted but not one has a good word for the French, and the French political situation does seem to be a hopeless one.

If one believed all he hears relative to our position in Europe--reference is to political-- and all one hears about the so-called allies, the day is dark and getting more so. I do not profess to be able to assay the quartz for the gold it may contain. Everything would indicate that the powers that be expect to stay over here for years. I was scheduled to speak to the chaplains retreat at Berchtesgaden, July 6-7 and with Chap. Whitmire and Chap. Ed Wilson, a fine Methodist lad from Florida doing the driving, we left Stuttgart early Monday morning, July 5, for the more than 400 mile drive to Berchtesgaden pausing for lunch at Munich. Some of the most beautiful country to be seen in the world is between Munich and this place.

The Autobahn, a part of the highway system built by Hitler and which is the only worth-while thing he left to this "fatherland," is a marvelous construction--much like the Turner Turnpike between Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

We checked in the USAREUR Religion Retreat House, "Alpine Inn." During the late war this area was used by Herman Goering as a rest place for his combat pilots and we were assigned to the rooms used by him. None of the present furniture was

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used by him, all of it disappearing immediately after the war, but the bath tub.

The dedication ceremony of the retreat house, now set aside by Uncle Sam for chaplains, took place at 11:00 a.m. on July 6. All military, save for myself. My part was to give the dedication prayer. A very historic event and a new departure in army, navy, and air force life. All branches were represented with military protocol, etc. There are around seventy chaplains here from all over Europe, white and colored. I have had two sermons and a discussion period with them, a very stimulating experience, and an illuminating one for me.

A number of our men from the Southern Baptist Convention are here, and we have had a good time. Several of them I knew before, Harry Hand, W. J. McDaniel, Robert Walker, Burn Millican, names I recall, and all wanted to know about the St. Louis convention. We in the States ought to do a better job of keeping in touch with these men--and it is quite possible to do it. They all speak highly of Dr. Carpenter, our Home Board Chaplains' commissioner, so to speak. It is no wonder they sometimes think of themselves as forgotten men. Through Dr. Carpenter the names and APO's of the chaplains can be secured and the denominational papers, etc., sent to them. It has been worth-while to be here and talk with the chaplains. Col. Kirtley, the header of the idea for the retreat house for chaplains, is chaplain-in-chief for the European area. He is a member of the Disciples of Christ and a very fine man, a preacher of the fundamentals, highly regarded by all, an Oklahoman incidently. Chaplain Kelly in charge of this Berchtesgaden area is a Methodist and has the hearts of the men.

Here is Hitler's domicile--and the place is dramatized by him. Today I was accorded the rare privilege of going into his conference room (now used by Col. McPhail, CO of this place) and which is the room where all his historic and diabolic campaigns were planned. The original furniture is there, the long table around which his generals gathered. I sat in the chair at the head of the table where he sat. Behind me on the wall is the huge oil painting of cattle groping in the mountains, all the oil paintings in the room are pastoral scenes. Never a battle scene! You can imagine the thoughts which came crowding into my mind, ten years ago and how different.

There is not space nor time to describe the trip to the fabulous place on top of the mighty mountain called "the Eagles Nest" where we went yesterday afternoon.

I can only say that it is both breath-taking and stupendous. Why could the man not have been content--"vaulting ambition doth 'oer leap itself." We leave early in the morning for Heidleberg and two days with Dr. Schroder of our publishing house at Kassell. I preach Sunday at Baumholder.--(A BAPTIST PRESS FEATURE)

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.....Mr. and Mrs. Ira C. Prosser, Oklahoma City, Okla., accepted a call to First Baptist Church, Conway, S.C., as assistant to the pastor and educational and financial secretary. Prior to this Prosser served as director of church music and secretary of the Baptist Student Union of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

.....E. C. Brown, pastor, First Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark., has accepted a call to the pastorate of First Baptist Church, McAlester, Okla., effective August, 16.

.....Victor I. Masters, 87, DeSoto City, Fla., retired editor of the Western Recorder, Louisville, Ky., died recently in Avon Park, Fla.

.....Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the trustees of Bristow Memorial Hospital have signed a twenty-five year lease agreement with the convention to begin operation of the institution upon its completion around September 1.

.....Principal speakers at the second Southern Baptist family life workshop in Nashville, September 3-4, will be H. C. Brearley, Peabody College, Nashville, and J. B. Weatherspoon, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.