

August 23, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

RIDGECREST NAMED '55 SITE  
FOR RURAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly will be the site of the 1955 second Convention-wide Rural Church Conference it was announced at the recent Home Mission Conference held here.

The conference, set for June 28 during the annual Home Mission Conference, will be a promotional and planning media for the long range Rural Church Program now in operation and sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

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ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN  
BSSB REORGANIZATION TOLD

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Three personnel changes, part of a continuing reorganization of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, were announced by James L. Sullivan, executive secretary.

Sullivan said that effective September 1, Charles H. Warnock will be promoted to supplies supervisor in the merchandise sales department; Kenneth Leslie Hayes will become trade sales manager in the Merchandise and Sales Division; and Charles Emmett Golden will be transferred from the Training Union Department to purchasing supervisor.

Warnock came to the Board from the Baptist Book Store in Fort Worth, Tex., in 1953 as associate in the Book Store Department.

Hayes was a radio announcer in Campbellsville, Ky., before becoming sales representative for the Board last year.

Golden was a field worker for the Georgia Baptist Training Union Department. He served as pastor's assistant at First Baptist Church, LaGrange, Ga., before coming to the Board in 1935 and has served as office secretary in the Board's Training Union Department for the past nineteen years. (MATS ENCLOSED.)

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Nashville, Tennessee  
August 23, 1954

Baptist Press

SOMETHING NEW IN  
CHURCH EXTENSION WORK

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.--(BP)--First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., has found a way to take care of the non-Sunday school members of their church. All members of the church who are not enroled in Sunday school will be automatically enroled in the Extension Department, H. H. Hobbs, pastor, announced.

This will mean that each member of the church not in Sunday school will receive a visit from the Extension Department visitor, and will receive regular literature for Bible study.

# BAPTIST FEATURES

August 23, 1954

Read by BAPTIST PRESS  
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of ten articles discussing some of the problems of Southern Baptist life. The opinions of Dr. Garrett are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES AND WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
BY: W. Barry Garrett

Southern Baptists are faced with two facts which must not be ignored. First, Baptist distinctives are Bible fundamentals for the solution of the world's problems. Second, Baptists are a part of the total world community.

The answers to the world's problems are found in the principles proclaimed by Baptists. The lordship of Jesus Christ as the supreme law of life, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, salvation by grace through faith, the local and democratic nature of a New Testament church, the ordinances as symbols, and the separation of church and state.

Baptists have a staggering responsibility to the world. If the principles they hold are the answers to the world's problems, then they have an inescapable obligation both to God and the world.

If the world is lost, if Communism triumphs, if war encircles the globe, if totalitarianism supplants democracy, those who hold the principles that would save the world will be held accountable.

Baptists are not alone in this world. They are not the only Christians. The magnifying of these distinctives is not an exclusive Baptist duty, although we should carry the banner with a zeal, a spirit, a conviction as if we were the only responsible group.

Four suggestions are made that will help magnify and maintain the distinct Baptist witness and at the same time sustain proper relations with other Christians.

First, Baptists must develop a life among themselves that corresponds to the principles they proclaim.

Baptists can never impress the world if the type of life existing in their own ranks is not stabilized by strong character, sacred consecration and sanctified convictions. Superior principles cannot be effectively propagated by inferior people.

Second, Baptists must stop playing at the job of stewardship and missions.

(more)

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With our millions of members and our millions of money we could turn this world upside down, if only our people and resources were thoroughly consecrated to the Lord. Baptists have barely scratched the surface when it comes to making maximum use of their human and material resources.

Third, Baptists must take their place in the Christian family. Baptists do their cause harm when they bury their head in the sand as if no one else exists and when they attack other groups in an unchristian spirit.

We may not agree with other groups, else we would not be Baptists, but we must love other people and we must co-operate with them when common interests are involved and when no compromise in principle is involved.

In our refusal to enter such organizations as the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, or even the National Association of Evangelicals or the International Council of Christian Churches, we must make it clear that we are not enemies of our fellow Christians and that we are not closing the door to intercommunion co-operation in matters of common concern.

Baptists must explain in an intelligent manner our reasons for not "joining" intercommunion groups. At the same time we must be careful not to misrepresent others and not to utter falsehoods about them.

Fourth, Baptists must make maximum use of every means at their disposal to preach their principles and to interpret their implications to the world.

The preached word, effective religious education, the printed page, the voice of radio, and the medium of television must be employed to the fullest.

But most of all, the power and influence of Christians who understand their fundamental principles and who know how to apply them to the world in which they live, are the answers as to how to magnify our Baptist distinctives by a distinct Baptist witness and at the same time maintain proper fellowship with other Christian groups.

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W. Barry Garrett is editor of the Arizona Baptist Beacon.

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.....Union University, Jackson, Tenn., will begin construction early this fall on a new residence hall for women.

..... A pastors' conference for Southern Baptist preachers in and near Denver, Colo., was recently organized with eighteen members.

.....W. A. Knight, pastor, First Baptist Church, Byers, Tex., has resigned to work with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Films, Inc. His territory is Oklahoma, Arkansas, and North Texas.

.....Raymond A. Coppenger, professor of Bible, Belmont College, Nashville, is the new professor of religion and philosophy at Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark.

.....Offices of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville have recently been air-conditioned.

.....Evan Zeiger, Shawmut, Ala., is a new associate in the Training Union Department of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

.....Vernon Shaw, field representative for the Texas Baptist Children's home, Round Rock, Tex., was elected assistant to the president at Decatur Baptist College, Decatur, Tex.