

October 15, 1958

Laymen Pay A Visit To Ambassador Hill

MEMPHIS--(BP)--First stop for twenty-eight laymen from eleven states before embarking on a recent tour of Southern Baptist mission work, was a call on Unit d States Ambassador Robert C. Hill in Mexico City, it was reported here.

Ambassador Hill received the men at his residence early one morning. He showed them over the grounds and spoke with them individually and as a group.

Hill formerly served as ambassador to Costa Rica and El Salvador. Prior to his entry into diplomatic service, he was an assistant vice president of W. R. Grace and Co. with residence in Washington, D. C.

The men learned that Ambassador Hill is a lay preacher who speaks often before English-language congregations in foreign lands.

The special audience with the Ambassador was arranged by Missionary W. M. Haverfield of Mexico City. The group was joined by two Baptist laymen of that city, Carl T. Schultz, with Dun and Bradstreet, and W. E. Muirhead, a retired businessman.

Leaving Mexico City, visits were made by the group at Taxco, Toluca, Uruapan, Zopoca, Guadalajara, Zacatecas and Torreon. Special services were held in most of these cities with each man participating during the 10-day trip.

The tour was sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which has offices in Memphis, in co-operation with the Convention's Foreign Mission Board and its Mexican mission.

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Colorado Establishes Brotherhood Department

DENVER--(BP)--Colorado Baptist General Convention voted at its annual session here to establish a Brotherhood department and to divide the work of its present religious education department.

Bill Landers was elected secretary of Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador work, effective immediately. Landers joined the Colorado convention staff recently, after leaving an insurance business in McKinney, Tex., to enter full-time Christian vocational work.

The two-way division of religious education department duties is effective Jan. 1. One department will cover Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and music. The other will handle Training Union and Baptist student work.

A secretary to supervise Sunday school and related work in the convention's six-state area is expected to be called in the near future.

Landers, in addition to his Brotherhood--RA work, will direct the convention's Southern Baptist Security Bond Corp. This corporation handles church building bonds for churches in the convention territory.

Convention messengers adopted a budget of \$255,800 for 1959. Anticipated Cooperative Program receipts from affiliated churches are \$124,000. One-fifth of Cooperative Program receipts goes to Southern Baptist Convention, the rest staying with Colorado convention.

The 1959 session of the general convention will be held in Colorado Springs Oct. 20-22. E. J. Speegle, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Boulder, Colo., was re-elected president of the convention.

In addition to Colorado, the convention covers Wyoming, both Dakotas, Montana, and western Nebraska.

Louisiana Board
Approves Report.

ALEXANDRIA, La.--(BP)--With a few slight modifications, the total report of Booz, Allen, and Hamilton, Chicago management consultant firm, has been approved by the executive board of Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The report will be presented to the state convention when it meets in Shreveport in November. The convention will be asked to approve a new constitution and bylaws, and recommendations affecting convention organization.

Commenting on the report, Executive Secretary Robert L. Lee said: "The survey of Louisiana Baptist work was comprehensive and required a period of approximately eight months. Favorable response and reactions have been reflected in comments made by laymen, pastors and administrators.

"An analysis of the present and past factors involving growth patterns and giving habits indicate that, within 20 years, Louisiana Baptists will be giving six to eight million dollars more to the Cooperative Program annually. The number of Baptists will be approaching double the present membership."

The board also approved a loan arrangement for the new Baptist building here. The loan, arranged through Robert Bolton of the Rapides Bank in Alexandria, will be made with the New York Life Insurance Co.

The board also approved a proposed \$2.5 million budget for 1959, which must be in turn approved by the convention.

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South America Welcomes
American Missionaries

DALLAS--(BP)--"Yankee Missionaries, Go Home" will be one sign that the world will never see, according to Leonard Sanderson, Dallas, evangelism director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, who has returned from a month's trip to South America.

Sanderson said American missionaries are well received because they do not try to Americanize.

"Even in a country as nationalistic as Venezuela, the missionaries receive fine support," he added. "Everywhere I visited (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela), the people were cordial and receptive, and expressed appreciation for the work of the missionaries."

Sanderson suggested that intense nationalism is not found among people working with the churches because they are more concerned with being Christians, than South Americans.

While traveling in South America, Sanderson conducted conferences on evangelistic methods among missionaries, pastors, lay leaders, and seminary students. He was particularly concerned with preparations for the 1959 Baptist World Evangelistic Crusade, which will make the year one of special evangelical emphasis with all Baptists concentrating on "personal soul-winning."

"I was surprised to see so much interest in the crusade," the veteran evangelist said.

Most Baptist churches in the countries Sanderson visited will observe periods of prayer during the North American spring crusade dates and will conduct their own meetings during October and November of 1959.

Jack Stanton, Colorado evangelism secretary, accompanied Sanderson on the South American tour and directed conferences in Chile.

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Convention Makes
Last Minute Switch

PORLAND, Ore.--(BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington was forced to make a literal "last-minute" switch in its meeting place for the annual convention this year.

The first session of the convention was due to open at Lincoln St. Baptist Church here, but at midnight---only a few hours before the opening hymn---the baptistry of the church was destroyed by fire.

First United Presbyterian Church of Portland came to the rescue, offering its building as a substitute meeting place, and the convention assembled on schedule.

Damage to Lincoln St. Church was estimated at \$12,000. The building was unoccupied. A defect in electrical wiring apparently caused the fire.

The Oregon-Washington messengers re-elected R. E. Milam of Portland their executive secretary. They elected L. F. Minnis, pastor, Woodland Baptist Church, Seattle, president, succeeding John R. Canning of Springfield, Ore.

The 1959 budget adopted at the convention is \$221,319, of which \$142,059 is anticipated in Cooperative Program receipts. 15 per cent of Cooperative Program receipts are for Southern Baptist Convention-wide objectives.

The 1959 meeting of the convention will be in Longview, Wash., Oct. 6-8.

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Committee Denounces
Acts Of Violence

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The executive committee of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has issued a statement denouncing acts of violence against minority groups, which are menacing life and damaging property in Atlanta and other American cities.

"The inflammatory statements and defiant acts of certain elected public officials have encouraged disrespect for constitutional government and law, and fostered a spirit of rebellion and lawlessness," the committee declared.

"In accordance with annual statements in the Southern Baptist Convention, composing more than nine million members, the Commission urges all citizens to actively oppose lawless acts, such as bombings, beatings, and abuse of persons because of race, religion, or conviction.

"Our American government rests upon moral law. We would appeal to all churches to rigorously support the law enforcement agencies, and to lead the communities to practice moral and spiritual principles for the creation of law-abiding and non-violent attitudes."

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Southern Enrolls 1308

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Enrolment at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here this year is 1,308, according to Duke K. McCall, president.

Last year's first semester enrolment was 1,396. "Southern's enrolment this year," President McCall said, "has exceeded our expectations."

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CORRECTION: In article dated Oct. 10 on Inter-Agency Council, please make the following change in line one, paragraph 2. Western Union transmission inadvertently sent the word "formerly" when it should have been "formally." Thus the corrected sentence will read "The membership was formally recognized, etc."

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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Laymen Help Unsaved Walk Aisle For Christ

EDITOR'S NOTE: J. T. Elliff, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., reports enthusiastically about a layman's soul-winning program under way in Bethany Church. Doubtless such layman programs are in progress elsewhere; these and the one at Bethany Church will inspire laymen of other churches to increase their witnessing. Baptist Press Features presents here a first-person account of Bethany's experience, as told by Pastor Elliff.

By J. T. Elliff
Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church
Kansas City, Mo.

There is absolutely nothing to equal the inspiration of seeing people walk the aisle for Christ each Sunday. It is especially thrilling if you know these people are being moved in a city pastorate by the old-time procedure of prayer, visitation, and Holy Spirit conviction.

The procedure we have followed for over a year has been the greatest contributor to an increase of 13 per cent in baptisms. It has given our church a feeling of expectancy in every service that people would profess faith.

Our plan at Bethany Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., is this: A group of men meet for breakfast each Saturday to make reports, to take soul-winning assignments, and to pray. The pastor is in charge of the meeting which lasts an hour and 15 minutes. (We found it convenient to meet in a private dining room of a restaurant so that fluctuations in the size of the group would not matter.)

The men agreed from the first to three basic things. First, they wanted to help unsaved and unchurched people, and were willing to take time each week to do it.

Second, they did not want publicity for the group or themselves when decisions were made. This was to be no select group, no "Andrew" band. Third, when they met they were willing to stick to a rather rigid agenda.

It is important to note that this was to be no jolly fellowship meeting. It was not even to be a general discussion meeting of church problems. In fact, we agreed to not even pray for anything except unsaved or unchurched people by name!

Bethany has not tried to "train" these men to win souls; they have learned by doing. Most of those won are visited and cultivated and yeilded over until they start attending church services.

Usually they make their decision for Christ in the service. Recently we have been taking a card with a verse of Scripture on it to memorize through the week. We each quote this verse with the reference while the meal is in progress.

Our rigid schedule is this:

7:00 Order meals; have blessing; quote memory verse; report on last week's assignments (very brief and to the point); take new assignments from pastor; kneel for prayer around the circle.

8:15 Dismissed.

How do the men like it? Damon Robinson, busy wholesale hardware salesman, says, "I am grateful for the privilege of being a small part of this group of men who desire to be about the Master's business of winning souls.

"Without such an opportunity as this meeting affords, I doubt very much if I could or would have the courage to go in his name to tell the good news as I have found myself doing under his leadership. It is more rewarding than anything I have ever done before."

E. W. Poore, retired Sears executive, and president of Missouri Baptist Brotherhood, says it is one of the most challenging things he talks about to men over the state. He reports many groups being organized for the same purpose.

As pastor, I can say that I doubt if I will ever again be without such a group. Our men want to be soul-winners! They should, for we have been telling them for years that soul-winning is everyone's job. A plan like that above provides the incentives and produces the results.

Here is a vital lay effort under the direct supervision of the pastor who according to Eph. 4:11-12, is to "perfect the saints unto the work of the ministry." I am now organizing the women and children for an identical program.

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Baptist Press

CUTLINES

OUT OF HIS TREASURE---Three members of the family of the late Dr. W. O. Carver gather around his portrait in the lobby of Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville. They are from left his daughter, Mrs. Maxfield Garrott, wife of a missionary educator in Japan now teaching at Carver while on furlough; his widow, and his son, George A. Carver, professor of missions and dean of faculty at Carver. Dr. W. O. Carver, for whom the school is named, was one of the leaders in its founding and taught courses to its students. Dr. Carver was professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, during this period. He delivered the Founder's Day address at Carver on several occasions. His son, George, delivered the Founder's Day address this year.---Baptist Press Photo.

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