

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant
December 10, 1958

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

1 Of Every 20 Since
Adam's Time Now Alive

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Plans to win 525,000 persons to Christ during 1959 were discussed by 24 state Baptist secretaries of evangelism at a meeting here.

Also participating in the meeting was Leonard Sanderson, Dallas, evangelism secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

Preliminary statistics show that baptisms of converts in 1958 will exceed 400,000. The only previous year baptisms exceeded this number was in 1955.

The increased soul-winning goal is a part of the Southern Baptist Convention's participation in the 1959 simultaneous evangelistic crusade by Baptists throughout North America, according to Sanderson.

In spite of the 103 million members of churches in the United States, the nation was more non-Christian this year than at any other time, Sanderson said. One of every 20 persons born since the time of Adam is now living, he continued. "This gives Southern Baptists their greatest growth potential."

Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, predicted 70,000 Southern Baptist churches by 1975. The number of churches co-operating with Southern Baptists now is over 31,000, and the denomination has a goal of increasing that substantially in the next five years.

Since 1940, Redford said, Southern Baptist work has been extended into 24 states where it was not carried on before. Eight of these states have grown sufficiently to organize independent, co-operating state Baptist conventions.

There are Southern Baptist churches now in 43 states and District of Columbia.

In 1960, the evangelism secretaries learned, the theme "Operation Resident Membership" will be used in the Convention. 1957 figures show that of the 8,966,255 members of Southern Baptist churches, 2,474,686 do not live in the area where they have their church membership. These are called "non-resident" members.

-30-

Reed Heads Church
Pensions Conference

NEW YORK--(BP)--The administrative head of a Southern Baptist Convention agency has been elected president of the Church Pensions Conference.

He is R. Alton Reed of Dallas, executive secretary of the Convention's Relief and Annuity Board.

The Church Pensions Conference is an organization of which representatives from 33 Protestant and non-Roman Catholic denominations are members. The conference meets yearly here to discuss administrative problems of the denominations in their relief and pension programs for ministers and other church and denominational workers.

Reed is the third executive secretary of the Relief and Annuity Board to be president of the Church Pensions Conference. The late Dr. T. J. Watts and the late Dr. Walter R. Alexander, Reed's predecessors, had served as presidents.

The Relief and annuity board is the agency of the Southern Baptist Convention handling retirement and annuity programs for 24,000 pastors and church workers. It has \$61 million in reserve funds contributed in their retirement plans.

-30-

Child Care Leaders To Meet In January

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--Those who direct Southern Baptists' children's homes and other child care programs will meet here Jan. 29-30 to share their common interests and problems.

Their organization, which meets yearly, is known as the Child Care Executives of Southern Baptists.

While the organization itself has no direct status with the denomination, the members of the organization do have official positions as superintendents, secretaries, and other leaders in Baptist child care institutions.

Thus the thinking of denominational leaders in matters of child care is often moulded at these annual sessions.

W. C. Reed, retired superintendent of Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina, will be one of the featured speakers. His topic: "The Psychology of Institutional Living."

Nathan C. Brooks, president of Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, will attend. Among the objectives of his school is producing graduates who are well-qualified to serve in Baptist child care work.

R. Alton Reed of Dallas, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Relief and Annuity Board, will help the group in determining the retirement plans for employees of these Baptist institutions.

Two lectures will be presented by Donald Bell, professor of religious psychology and counseling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

-30-

Postman Rings Twice, Sets Record On Both

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--The mailman brought Christmas blessings three weeks early to the office of Illinois Baptist State Association here. He rang twice and set records both times.

Among his mail for the office were two letters containing checks. One letter signaled the reaching of the association's \$20,000 state mission offering goal. The other heralded the crossing of the million-dollar mark in total receipts at the state office during 1958.

Neither mark had been attained before.

A \$99 check from Winkle Baptist Church in Nine Mile Association near Pinckneyville, Ill., included slightly more than \$15 designated for the state mission offering. This was enough to bring it to over \$20,000, the year's goal. Never before had Illinois association reached its state mission offering goal.

The same mail delivery brought a check from Lansdowne Baptist Church, E. St. Louis, Ill., for \$666. This check brought the total receipts during the year at the association's office to more than \$1 million.

Noel M. Taylor, Carbondale, executive secretary of the association, said:

"It has taken the state association 51 years to reach the million-dollar mark. However, on the basis of the records of the past few years, Illinois Baptists should reach their second million in annual receipts in their state office between the years 1964 and 1968."

He went on to say that the credit goes back to the churches and to their

-more-

December 10, 1958

3

Baptist Press

pastors. "This," he said, "is their achievement." The executive secretary also said, "In my opinion this attainment reflects the fine promotion of the Forward Program of Church Finance."

A third record seems certain to be made by Dec. 31---attainment of the \$575,000 Cooperative Program goal with the likelihood ~~that~~ total receipts for the Cooperative Program will exceed \$600,000.

-30-