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127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

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Hays Is Sixth Layman
Chosen SBC President

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Research into records of the Southern Baptist Convention indicates that Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.) is the sixth layman to be elected president of the Convention.

Hays was elected at the Convention's 1957 session in Chicago to succeed C. C. Warren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C.

The other laymen and years they presided are Jonathan Harelson, 1889-1898; W. J. Northen, 1899-1901; E. W. Stephens, 1905-07; Joshua Levering, 1908-10; and Pat Neff, 1944 and 1946 (no meeting held in 1945).

James P. Eagle, the only other Arkansawyer president of the Convention (1902-04), was a minister but like Hays was active in politics.

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Two Baptist Presidents
Attend The Same Church

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Calvary Baptist Church of Washington has the distinction of being a church home to both the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention.

Its pastor, Clarence W. Cranford, was recently elected president of the American Convention. Rep. Brooks Hays, Congressman from Arkansas who is new president of the Southern Convention, attends Calvary Church during his periods in the Capital. He also teaches a class there.

The church itself is a "dually-aligned" church, one which supports both of the Conventions.

(Hays membership is in his home town of Little Rock, however.)

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BP folks & facts

.....Philip Harris, professor of adolescent religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and Billy Souther, music and education director of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., are going to Rome, Italy, under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to direct a program of study for Italian Baptists this summer.

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British Baptist Work
Advances, Says Lord

NASHVILLE--(BP)--"We believe we have turned the corner after a long period of recession," a former president of the Baptist World Alliance said here of Baptist work in his native Great Britain.

F. Townley Lord said that "for the first time in 10 years, our statistics are going up. This applies both to membership and to gifts."

Lord served as Alliance president through the Baptist World Alliance Congress of 1955 which met in London, where his Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church is located. He has been its pastor for 28 years.

The visiting British Baptist also is a former president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a former editor of the Baptist Times -- British Baptists' weekly newspaper, and currently is chairman of the board of Carey-Kingsgate Press.

Carey-Kingsgate is the publishing arm of the British Baptist group.

"There is no doubt that the work of Billy Graham helped all evangelical churches in England," Lord declared. The well-known American evangelist conducted meetings in Scotland and in London.

Lord said Graham's continuing influence is evident in several ways. One is the increased prestige of the church in British life. Another is the interest of church people -- particularly their youth -- in visitation to enlist new members.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland now has 340,000 members. 200 of its affiliated churches are located in London.

While in Nashville, Lord visited W. J. Fallis, book editor of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Afterward Lord said of his Carey-Kingsgate Press: "We are planning to establish closer relationships with Broadman Press." Broadman is the name under which the Baptist Sunday School Board publishes its books.

As in America, great interest prevails in Britain over the question of whether hydrogen bomb tests ought to continue. This was discussed at a recent meeting of British Baptists.

"The churches of Britain (including the Baptists) are divided 50-50 on the question of continuing H-Bomb tests," Lord reported. Some younger ministers, he commented, favor abolition. Older Baptists say the West shouldn't discontinue if the Russians don't.

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church almost miraculously escaped severe damage during World War II bombings in England, Lord said. Bombs destroyed other buildings that surrounded the church, including one about 50 yards away.

Britain's churches are just now getting around to re-building after their wartime damage or destruction, he said. Ruined homes were rebuilt first, then business s, now the churches, he declared.

Lord attended the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago and appeared before the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. He filled pulpits in many Southern Baptist churches from South Carolina to Maryland.

Lord also visited C. Oscar Johnson, pastor of Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, also a former Baptist World Alliance president, and Theodore F. Adams, current president. Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., is recuperating from a recent heart attack.

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Miss Brown Chosen
Ariz. WMU Secretary

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Miss Almarine Brown, who recently completed a six-year term as president of the Woman's Missionary Union in Mississippi, will be the new WMU executive secretary for Arizona.

She succeeds Mrs. Charles M. Griffin, who retired May 1.

Miss Brown, a graduate of Mississippi State College for Women and George Peabody College, has been a public school teacher. She is not new to the West, having held a civil service appointment in the United States Indian School at Santa Fe, N. M.

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BP folks & facts

.....H. C. McConnell, missionary to Chile since 1937, will be visiting profesor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., next year.

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.....The Chicago Convention Committee, which is probably the nation's busiest since more conventions come to Chicago than anywhere else, reports the average conventionner in Chicago stays 4 1/3 days. During that time he spends \$164.27 not counting the cost of travelling to get there.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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"Mother Doesn't Care" - Sidelights of the 1957 Convention

By R. J. Hastings

A frail, 6-year-old girl in a wrinkled cotton dress wandered about Chicago's vast International Amphitheatre eagerly stuffing free samples of literature in an old paper sack. Her stringy hair, unwashed face, and uneven teeth prematurely darkened with decay revealed further lack of parental concern. Evidently from a nearby neighborhood, she had entered the exhibit area of the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago, and was visiting the various booths. Noting the lateness of the hour I inquired if her mother knew of her whereabouts. It was then she answered, "My mother doesn't care." As long as I remember the Chicago Convention, I believe the picture of this pinch-faced little girl saying "My mother doesn't care" will haunt me.

There is always a thrill in attending a Convention in a hospitable Southern city. The press is friendly, local officials are profuse in their welcome, and large numbers of local Baptists attend the inspirational sessions. We go home with a warm glow of optimism and enthusiasm for our work. But always holding our Conventions where Southern Baptists are a majority group, respected and influential, could be ominous. It might produce an overoptimistic feeling of our superiority, importance, and influence.

If we are sincere in our desire to be global in missionary outlook, then we must constantly remind ourselves that only about five per cent of the world's population is familiar with Southern Baptists and their work.

All of which means that it surely does us good occasionally to meet outside our traditional territory. Such good comes from a personal vision of the unreached masses, even if that vision is mirrored in the eyes of a neglected Primary age girl.

However, if we are interested in meeting only where we are dominant, respected, and influential, it may indicate simply the desire to bury our heads in the sand while we compliment each other over our strength.

Although the little Chicago girl left me with a morbid feeling, I personally think that such feelings could well be shared by every Southern Baptist. She admitted that her own mother did not care about her physical condition or where or how she spent her time. Do we care? Do we care for this little child with the drawn face and anxious eyes? If we could find her today every reader would say, "Yes, darling, we love you. And if going to Chicago for a Convention where some of us felt just a little bit lost and perhaps inconvenienced was necessary to see you, it was worth all of it.

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"We will not soon forget you although we never knew your name. For you we give ourselves, our money, our prayers. Yes, little girl, although the free literature you placed in your tattered paper bag was all you thought we had to offer, we have the love of Christ to share with you and your tired mother. For you we are establishing 30,000 new places of Baptist work. We hope that one of these may touch your little life and make your soul as virile as your body is frail."