



July 29, 1957
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Southern Baptists In
America's Largest City

NEW YORK--(BP)--Almost every Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mayo, and their two children of Gladstone, N. J., will cross a state line and drive 55 miles to church in downtown Manhattan in New York City.

There they will join about 20 other Southern Baptists for Sunday school and a morning worship service in the YMCA at 215 W. 23rd St. This little nucleus represents the first organized effort of Southern Baptists in the greater New York City area.

They held their first service May 5, and hope to organize into a church in early September.

Their story goes back to the fall of 1956 when James Aaron and family moved to New York so he could do graduate work in New York University. The Aarons visited several churches, hoping to find something like their home church, Third Baptist in Granite City, Ill.

It soon became apparent that there was no Southern Baptist work in New York, and neither did they find a church in which they could conscientiously serve. Finally Mrs. Aaron said, "I'm going to see if a Southern Baptist church can be started."

First she wrote the Baptist executive secretary of her home state, Noel M. Taylor, at Carbondale, Ill. He forwarded her letter to Ray Roberts, executive secretary of Ohio Baptists, which had been sponsoring some pioneer work in Pennsylvania and New York state.

Roberts' office served as a clearing house to secure names of other interested Baptists in the New York area. He helped with the Sunday school organization and first worship services in May.

Others in the congregation moved into New York from places like Kentucky and Georgia.

From this small beginning the group has carried on weekly services under their own leadership. Visiting pastors, chaplains, and denominational workers have supplied the pulpit each Sunday. Offerings are \$100 weekly, and the group gives 10 per cent to the Cooperative Program. Typical of their resourcefulness

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are Mr. and Mrs. Dean Styers who bring a collapsible play pen each Sunday for their two-year-old Jamie and other small children. At present this play pen is the "nursery."

The YMCA has been "unbelievably nice," according to members of the small congregation, even to offering the auditorium rent free. However, the group felt they should assume responsibility for rent and currently pay \$40 monthly.

How does this small, struggling nucleus with no pastor and no property hope to make an impression on the 12 million people in the greater New York area?

First, they want to call a pastor-missionary, a "man with vision" who will pastor the parent group meeting on ~~Manhattan~~ and then lead in establishing at least six missions elsewhere around New York City--in other boroughs, on Long Island, and in New Jersey.

Second, they want Southern Baptists to send names and addresses of friends and relatives who live in the New York-New Jersey area. They say it is almost impossible to seek prospects without definite leads.

They have agreed to contact every name furnished them. Persons who have Southern Baptist friends or relatives in the area should send their names to Ray E. Roberts, Ohio Baptist Convention, 30 S. Fourth St., Columbus, Ohio.

Sunday School Board
Elects Howard Reaves

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board, holding its summer session here, elected Howard M. Reaves, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., president. He succeeds B. Locke Davis, pastor of Parker Memorial Baptist Church, Anniston, Ala.

Ernest J. Moench, Nashville, Tenn., layman, was elected chairman of the executive committee of the board. This committee is composed of board members living in the Nashville area.

J. Harold Stephens, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, was elected recording secretary.

The board also elected a new secretary for its Sunday school department. He is A. V. Washburn, who has been on the board staff since 1933, and will succeed J. N. Barnette, who is retiring Jan. 1.

Washburn joined the Sunday school department as secretary of young people's work. After a period of Navy service during World War II, Washburn returned to the board in 1946 as secretary of teaching and training in the same department.

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Ohio Convention Buys
New Site For Offices

COLUMBUS, Ohio--(BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio recently bought a home to which they will move their state offices now located elsewhere in the city.

The new offices, at 1680 E. Broad St., will probably be occupied in mid-August. Presently offices are at 30 S. Fourth St. here.

The Baptist Book Store will remain at 30 S. Fourth St. and plans to expand into space vacated by state convention officers.

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Monahans, Tex., Church
Wisconsin Loan Surety

MONAHANS, Tex.--(BP)--First Baptist Church, Monahans, recently underwrote a \$25,000 loan enabling Immanuel Baptist Church of Madison, Wis., to complete a new building.

The Madison church is the first in the Wisconsin-Minnesota Association of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to build a new sanctuary. Texas Baptists are sponsoring new Southern Baptist work in the two states.

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BP folks & facts

.....Nolan P. Howington, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., since 1953, will be associate professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville.

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