

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

August 8, 1957

SBC Goal Set
For 1958 Evangelism

DALLAS, Tex., --(BP)--A goal of 475,000 converts for 1958 and a day of commitment to soul winning were announced by Dr. Leonard Sanderson, secretary of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The day of commitment will be Sunday, January 5, 1958. At that time, members of 30,834 Southern Baptist churches will be asked to sign cards pledging a personal attempt "to win non-Christians to Christ during the year."

The goal and day of commitment were approved by 24 secretaries of evangelism attending the annual home missions conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly. The week-long conference ended Wednesday.

The evangelism leader, with offices in Dallas, said that more than one out of every three persons in the United States is not affiliated with any church. He said, "If members of churches do not become recruiters for Christ, they miss one of God's choicest blessings."

A slogan, "Every Baptist committed to Win Souls," will be displayed in most Southern Baptist churches during the emphasis.

Last year Southern Baptist churches registered 384,627 baptisms. Dr. Sanderson said that figure represents one convert for every 27 church members.

Texas Baptist churches registered 67,421 baptisms, or one to every 28 members.

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Welsh Baptists Increase

CARDIFF, Wales--(BP)--Welsh Baptists are expanding both churches and membership. Three new church sites have been purchased in Cardiff subdivision: one has a Sunday school of 312 pupils and 49 teachers, another 360 pupils and 40 teachers and the third 25 pupils and 12 teachers. Similar progress is being made in other parts of Wales.

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Builds Modern Church

KANSAS CITY, Mo., --(BP)--The Englewood Baptist Church in North Kansas City is planning a \$400,000 building in most advanced modern architecture. The auditorium will be designed that all the windows admit north light. Included in the educational plant will be special rooms for R A and G A activities.

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Faculty Housing Pays

ARCADELPHIA, Ark.,--(BP)--President Ralph A. Phelps of Ouachita College is convinced that a housing program helps hold his faculty together. Before the college organized a plan to enable faculty members to build their own homes on an unproductive college farm, the teachers were being lured away to colleges with better living conditions. Today eleven homes have been built and Phelps says that he frequently has applicants for teaching jobs because of the housing possibilities.

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Ralph Douglas Chosen

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.,--(BP)--Ralph Douglas, associate general secretary, has been named interim general secretary and treasurer for the Arkansas Baptist Convention, succeeding Ben L. Bridges who has resigned effective August 31. Dr. Bridges who had offered his resignation late in July had been requested by the Board to continue until November. A committee has been named to find a permanent successor.

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Most Converts Are
New Yorkers

NEW YORK--(BP)--Life Magazine said recently that most of the persons making decisions at Billy Graham's Madison Square Garden revival came from outside the metropolitan area. Signed cards in the office show that 31,858 came from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Staten Island, Long Island, New Jersey, West Chester and Connecticut. There were 2,300 from other parts of the United States and 111 from foreign countries.

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Studies Federal
Funds for Schools

RALEIGH, N. C.,--(BP)--The General Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention through its Christian Education Committee is studying the advisability of the convention owned Bowman-Gray School of Medicine accepting federal funds. A report is expected at the November meeting of the board.

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Asks Colleges
Reconsider Dancing

RALEIGH, N. C.,--(BP)--An appeal to the trustees of Meredith College and Wake Forest College to "change their position" on actions permitting dancing on the college campuses was passed by the general Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention at its recent summer session.

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.....Don Berry, a 1956 Baylor graduate, assumed the position as Baptist Student Union director at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, July 1.

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.....The Rev. R. Elmer Dunham, superintendent of missions for the El Paso Baptist Association, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention City Mission Conference during the annual Home Mission Week at the Glorieta Baptist Assembly.

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.....Louisiana Baptists' hurricane relief offering has already passed the goal, \$100,000.

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Baptist Students
Smoke the Least

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.,--(BP)--A total of 685 Howard College (Alabama) students were queried about their smoking habits. One in five, 22 per cent, of the students smoke. Thirty-one per cent of the men smoke as against 6 per cent of the women. By classes the sophomores were found to be the lightest smokers with only 19 per cent. Juniors were the heaviest with 26 per cent. Freshmen were 22 per cent and seniors 25 per cent. In neighboring Auburn College it was found that 58.3 per cent of the student body were smokers.

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