



THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

September 29, 1957

Texas Widow Back Home
From Tour Of Nigeria

DALLAS--(BP)--A little white-haired 78-year-old widow from Abilene, Tex., completed a 9,000-mile, five-month journey to Nigeria as a Southern Baptist missionary observer.

"I went over there," said Mrs. J. L. (Mom) Anthony, "to get a glimpse of our mission work. And I certainly did. I could write a book about these past few months."

During her stay in Nigeria, she toured "nearly every province," averaging about five talks a day. One Sunday she spoke 11 times.

A Baptist Sunday school teacher for more than 50 years, Mrs. Anthony said she had to speak through an interpreter most of the time. As many as five were needed at times to translate her Bible stories into the different dialects of groups gathered to hear her.

Traveling with regular Southern Baptist missionaries working in Nigeria, Mrs. Anthony used a flannel-graph and her well-worn Bible to "introduce them to Christ."

Since she lives alone and makes her own way as a seamstress, Mrs. Anthony could not finance the journey by herself. It was sponsored by the University Baptist Church of Abilene and by personal friends.

She has read her Bible every day for the last 61 years, has missed Sunday services only 26 times in 61 years and has been late only twice--both times because of car trouble.

Record 2,005 Students
Register At Fort Worth

FORT WORTH--(BP)--A record-breaking total of 2,005 students have registered for the fall semester at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Final enrolment figures show 1,277 students in the school of theology, 678 in the school of religious education, and 135 in the school of church music.

This fall there are 621 new students in comparison to 549 last fall.

The previous high at Southwestern was 1,881 students in the fall term of 1954.

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Jack Harwell Assistant
Christian Index Editor

ATLANTA--(BP)--Jack U. Harwell of Mobile, Ala., is joining the staff of the Christian Index here as assistant to the editor.

Harwell is the son of Hoyt Horace Harwell of Leroy, Ala., who is chairman of the press relations committee of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

Jack Harwell has been chief of the internal information division of the 12-state Mobile Air Force Materiel Area with headquarters in Mobile. He is a graduate of Howard College.

The Christian Index is the weekly publication of Georgia Baptists.

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.....Leslie S. Williams, pastor, First Baptist Church, Statesboro, Ga., has accepted the position of superintendent of missions for the Columbus Baptist Association, Columbus, Ga.

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.....First Baptist Church, Eldorado, Okla., called L. E. Laing as its pastor. Laing returns to Oklahoma from pastorate of Jackson Ave. Baptist Church, Lovington, N. M.

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.....Paul H. Cranford has resigned pastorate of Jackson Hill Baptist Church, Atlanta, to become pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.

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.....Miss Betty Jeane Weeks, of Baltimore, Md., has accepted the position of Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, Miss., succeeding Miss Kathryn Jasper, who resigned to become student director for Hinds County Miss. Baptist Association. Miss Weeks, now associate in the department of religious education of the Maryland Baptist Union Association will assume her new duties Oct. 16.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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You're Wanted On The 'Phone--Ohio Calling
by Virgil O. McMillan Jr.
Southern Baptist Missionary to Japan

(Editor's Note: Mr. McMillan, who served in Nagasaki, Japan, is now in the United States. He recently visited Ohio to observe Southern Baptists in that state. These are his impressions.)

Long distance from Ohio calling! Person to person to Southern Baptists for help in northern Ohio!

The call is for preachers who are willing to sacrifice, and who like the Apostle Paul are ready and able to work at a trade while they build churches for the Lord Jesus.

The call is also to members of Southern Baptist churches for support of new churches in Ohio.

A young chemical engineer asked me, "When are our people going to wake up to the challenge and opportunity here in Ohio? If Southern Baptists don't come into Ohio, somebody else will. Our city of 290,000 is already filled with churches of all kinds of off-brand isms."

Right now 50 preachers are needed for churches and missions. The need is for men with trades who can earn their living for one to three years while they are building churches. Men with courage and faith and vision like the young man who recently accepted the call to a mission at Syracuse, N. Y., are needed. This young man left a pastorate where he had baptized 154 converts during the past three years to accept this mission at a salary of \$23 a week.

Strong churches in the South need to give supplements to churches in Ohio, so their pastors can serve their churches full-time. A pastor working in industry and trying to pastor a church at the same time is like a man trying to do manual labor with his right hand tied behind his back.

Some churches in the South are already providing aid. There are 130 pastors in Southern Baptist work in Ohio but still 65 of these pastors or their wives must do secular work to make a living.

Churches in the South may also help by giving money for land and church buildings. The people of Ohio are like the people of Japan in this respect; they are not attracted by dingy, second-rate church buildings.

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The churches in Ohio are worthy of help. Last year the per capita gift in Ohio was \$85.

I visited in the home of one of our preachers. I showed pictures of our work in Japan to members of his church. Even with all the difficulties in Ohio and the lack of money for buildings they need, the people are 100 per cent for foreign missions.

All four churches in which I spoke have posters saying their churches give 10 per cent to the Cooperative Program and 2 per cent to associational missions. The churches of the association in the Cleveland area voted to raise their gifts to the Cooperative Program another 2 per cent this year.

Two of these four churches meet in rented buildings and wives of two of those pastors work for a living. In one home both the pastor and his wife work to pay their bills. Yet they have a full-time church, also the Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, Girls Auxiliary, and Sunbeams.

The need is everywhere. In a suburb of Cleveland with 75,000 population there is only one Baptist church of any kind. Southern Baptists in Ohio say that of a million people in Cleveland, 100,000 are from the South, most of them unchurched.

Southern Baptists in Ohio are sacrificing to carry on their work. They are not fighting or competing with other denominations. They are in Ohio to help lead the 5½ million (60 per cent of the population) in Ohio to Christ.