

ALBERT McCLELLAN, director

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant and staff news writer

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Nashville, Tennessee--A Southern Baptist leader recently home from a visit with Baptists around the world was "greatly impressed with the caliber and quality of our Southern Baptist Convention missionaries." Merrill D. Moore, associate executive secretary and director of promotion for the SBC Executive Committee, visited 25 countries and conducted conferences or services in 17 of these nations.

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The Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program has recommended the establishment of two new agencies. The new agencies recommended are the Church Loan Board, which would meet the "urgent need for more adequate provision for securing loans to build and enlarge church facilities," and a Stewardship Commission which would "provide stewardship promotion the emphasis its importance warrants."

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The Committee to Study Total Convention Program further recommends that the Home Mission Board plan gradual transfer of responsibility for its work in Cuba, Panama, and the Canal Zone to local conventions. It also said the Foreign Mission Board should likewise make a gradual transfer of its responsibility for the work in Hawaii to the Hawaiian Convention. The committee suggested that the Foreign Mission Board continue and expand its efforts to establish churches for English-speaking people in major countries served by the Board.

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Nashville, Tennessee--A recent report to the Advisory Council on Work with Negroes said Southern Baptists are contributing an estimated \$3 million a year "in their efforts to render a religious service to Negroes in this country and abroad." Over 60 persons are employed by the Home Mission Board to work with Negroes. The budget for this work in the United States for 1958 is over \$200,000. Africa has always been a field of major interest for the Foreign Mission Board. In 1956 there were 248 missionaries serving in Africa, with a budget of approximately \$2 million. Other contributions are made in seminary training for Negro religious leaders, and in local work with Negro Baptists.

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Kansas City, Missouri--Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Seminary here have elected five faculty members for the new institution. It opens Sept. 8 with up to 150 students expected. Among the new faculty members is Lavell Seats, former missionary to Nigeria for 15 years. He will be professor and head of the department of missions.

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Richmond, Virginia--The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention reported an increase overseas of 208 churches and 789 chapels and missions in 1957. The board appointed 109 missionaries and with deaths, retirements, and resignations, there was a net gain of 73 missionaries.

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Tokyo, Japan--Southern Baptist Convention Missionary W. H. "Dub" Jackson, Jr., of Abilene, Texas, has organized the first Southern Baptist English-speaking church here with 75 charter members. Jackson received his assignment to Japan by the SBC Foreign Mission Board in 1951. Jackson hopes the church "will serve as a training program for missionary work in the area. People will now be able to see an English-language Baptist church in action," he said.

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Chicago, Illinois--Representatives of seven North American Baptist groups participating in the Baptist Jubilee Advance have adopted a statement saying that their evangelistic efforts will not embrace any rivalry between the seven groups.

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Phoenix, Arizona--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona has voted to establish here a children's home and child placement service. The convention has about \$36,000 in gifts on hand designated for children's home use.

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Birmingham, Alabama--Deb Lee Stennis, Meridian, Mississippi former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died following brain surgery here.

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