

March 30, 1958

5 Laymen Leave April 7 For Australian Visits

MEMPHIS--(BP)--Five Southern Baptist laymen, led by George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary-treasurer, Baptist Brotherhood Commission, leave Apr. 7 for a series of conferences with laymen in Australia and the Far East.

They will spend a week in Australia, where they have been invited to conduct conferences on Brotherhood work. Afterward they will visit Southern Baptist mission stations in Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Tokyo.

Special meetings with men in these Far Eastern areas are being planned by Southern Baptist missionaries.

Accompanying Schroeder will be Dr. K. J. O'Banion, California, Mo.; Vernon Shipp, Phoenix, Ariz.; Mr. and Mrs. John W. McCall, Memphis, and Dr. Ralph Bethea, also of Memphis.

Dr. O'Banion, a physician, is past president of Missouri Baptist General Association, past state Brotherhood president, and a former chairman of the Brotherhood Commission.

Shipp, businessman and rancher, has held the same positions in his state and is also a former member of the Commission.

McCall, prominent Memphis attorney, served as chairman of the Brotherhood Commission's executive committee for 20 years. Dr. Bethea is a physician.

According to Schroeder, these laymen on tour expect to work with and through the Baptist World Alliance. Their work in Australia is at the invitation of W. L. Jarvis, member of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance, and W. J. Dunn, lay leader for Baptist churches of Australia.

As an indication of their interest in the coming of the delegation, the Baptist Men's Society of New South Wales is conducting a four-hour prayer service just prior to arrival of the group. The prayer service is to "seek God's blessing on the visit of the delegation."

It is expected that 2000 men will attend the final rally in Sydney.

"The purpose of the tour is two-fold," Schroeder explained. First, it permits Southern Baptist men and those of other nations to share experiences about the best way to enlist men in the work of the Lord.

Second, the Southern Baptist group will share with their brethren of other countries a conviction that a laymen's section of the Baptist World Alliance should be created at the next World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1960.

Schroeder said he believes the time has come in the work of the Alliance when Baptist men of the world should meet at regular intervals.

Upon arriving in Australia, the group will divide into two segments in order to fill more speaking engagements. They will come together again for the final rally in Sydney. The men will pay their own expenses for the tour.

Swim, Fish At Houston
But No Major League

HOUSTON--(BP)--Southern Baptist Conventioneers coming here in May won't have to be reminded to see Houston's Civic Center, since they'll be meeting in the Coliseum which is a part of the Center.

However, Houstonians can point out many other places for sight-seeing and for recreation, too, that can be visited. These include the port, historical landmarks, swimming and fishing places, hospitals and medical centers, and schools.

The Gulf of Mexico is 50 miles away---at Galveston, linked to Houston by a superhighway. Salt-water fishing and swimming are available in the Gulf and bays; fresh-water swimming and fishing can be found at Lake Houston, 25 miles from the city.

In addition, some hotels have swimming pools and there are others located elsewhere in Houston.

Baseball fans who took advantage of major league parks in Kansas City and Chicago won't find one in Houston. Houston, however, does field a team in the class AA Texas League.

The battleship Texas is permanently berthed at San Jacinto State Park, where also may be found the 570-foot San Jacinto Monument and its museum of history.

University of Houston, Rice Institute, and Texas Southern University are in Houston. Texas Baptists will have a junior college there in the not distant future, according to present plans.

There's also the Texas Medical Center with several hospitals, clinics, and medical buildings. Baylor College of Medicine is at Houston, as is Baptist-owned Memorial Hospital.

Houston brags of its port, 50 miles from the sea by a navigation channel. Galveston also has one of the major Gulf of Mexico ports, with numerous others along the bay in the area.

Shopping in one of the South's largest cities will also be of interest to many Conventioneers. Last year, 145,000 people attended conventions in Houston and spent \$17 million total.

Of the \$17 million spent, the per dollar breakdown was like this: 32.2 cents, hotels; 25.2 cents, restaurants; 16.6 cents, retail stores; 5.4 cents, local transportation (including that by personal automobile); 3.9 cents, theaters, sports, and other such activities; 7.1 cents, beverages; 9.6 cents on other expenses (including some types of entertainment).

The average amount spent by conventioneers in Houston last year was about \$120. This does not include transportation to and from the city.

Whoosh! Brotherhood
Unit Goes Into Orbit

COCOA BEACH, Fla.--(BP)--A group of Baptist laymen organizing a new Baptist Brotherhood unit at the Baptist chapel here must have thought their program and a launching at adjacent Cape Canaveral had been confused.

It listed such events for the night as "blast off time, fuel mixture, static test, crew briefing, count down, charting the course, final adjustments, and blast off."

The chapel's worshippers include some from Cape Canaveral, where America has launched three earth-circling satellites and many long-range guided missiles.

However, it was the correct program. "Blast off time" was the starting hour for the meeting. "Fuel mixture" was the menu for their banquet. "Static test"?--a quartet.

"Crew briefing" was a period of presenting the aims and purpose of the Baptist Brotherhood. "Count down" was a solo. "Charting the course" turned out to be a discussion of Brotherhood activities for 1958.

Just before the "blast off," a prayer was offered for successful launching and a good orbit of the new Brotherhood unit.

The chapel here is sponsored by First Baptist Church, Cocoa, on the mainland nearby. James A. Caldwell is pastor of the sponsor church. A "charter night" for completing organization of the new Brotherhood unit was scheduled in the immediate future.