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SOUTHERN BAPTIST
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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HOME MISSIONS

MOTTO: TRUST THE LORD AND THE PEOPLE

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Chaplain Clay Landers about to baptize William Coleman of Spartanburg, S. C., in the blue waters of the Danube River. (Official Photo, AAF—by European ATS.)

Home Missions Today

By J. B. LAWRENCE

The Home Mission Board comes now to a new day. Its face is fronted toward the future. The going on in the past has been glorious. The going on today should be more glorious. The Board was never more prosperous and progressive than now. It has recovered from the dismay, despondency and despair of the debt and depression that overwhelmed it a few years ago, and is now moving out in an upward and forward-looking mission program traveling with Christ towards tomorrow.

I. THE FIELD

The Board has a widely extended mission field stretching from the sun-kissed shores of the Atlantic seaboard to the Golden Gate of the Pacific. This vast territory, together with the four western provinces of Cuba, the Canal Zone, Panama, and Costa Rica, with a population of something like fifty million people, is the field of the Home Mission Board.

A field of service, however, is not measured by square miles alone; it is measured by the people who live in the field, their needs, their requirements, and their spiritual condition which challenge Christ's disciples to carry to them the gospel of Jesus Christ. In this field of service there are thirty million unchurched people. Twenty-five million of these are in our own country. This is more than twice the number of our armed forces at the peak of the war. This group would fill ten states the size of Mississippi, six states the size of Georgia, eight states the size of Alabama, eleven states the size of Florida, three states the size of Texas, and twenty states the size of New Mexico.

This group numbers more than the entire population of Old Mexico, one-half the population of France, one-half the population of Brazil, and four times the population of Chile.

We have in this group of unchurched people in our homeland 1,750,000 Mexicans; 600,000 French-speaking Americans; 650,000 Italians; 250,000 Indians; 600,000 Jews; 11,000,000 Negroes; and in Cuba, Panama, and Costa Rica, at least 6,000,000—all in need of the gospel.

The Home Mission Board is planning to do something about this need. It comes to the new century with hope, courage and experience. It comes with a determination to meet the ever-enlarging fields of service and increasing tasks with a widening reach and heightening power.

Last year was one of the most prosperous years of the Board's history. During 1945 it added 48 missionaries, opened 471 mission stations, and acquired or improved 387 pieces of mission property. The missionaries of the Board distributed 42,511 Bibles, Testaments and portions of the Scripture. They gave out 2,006,010 pages of tracts, delivered 58,524 sermons and addresses, and led 34,833 people to accept Christ.

To the various missions maintained by the Board through the years, six new departments of work have been added in the past six years—City Missions, Rural Missions, Church Schools of Missions, Summer Student Work, Radio, Visual Education, Veterans Enrollment, and Migrants. The Board is now operating in twenty fields of service, touching every

group in our homeland and reaching into every field of need. It needs only to extend each of these departments to the limit to cover completely the homeland with the gospel.

The Board is today preaching the gospel through its more than 900 missionaries to the Indians, the Mexicans, the Spanish-Americans, the Italians, the French, the Russians, the Poles, the Jews, the Chinese, the underprivileged in the congested sections in our industrial centers, the Negroes, the Cubans, the people in the Canal Zone, Panama, and Costa Rica, the boys in the camps and on the fighting fronts, the lost in forty-four of our largest cities, and in the rural sections of fifteen of our states.

II. THE WORK

Let us now look briefly at the work the Board is doing in the various fields in which it is preaching the gospel.

1. The Mexicans. The Board has 204 churches and missions, twenty-seven kindergartens, 193 missionaries, and church properties valued at \$146,400.

2. The Indians. In this field the Board has 72 churches and missions, 95 missionaries, two mission centers and property valued at \$89,900.

3. The French. In the French field in South Louisiana, the Board has 23 missionaries, 22 churches and missions, and 8 chapels, with property valued at \$52,800.

4. The Italians. The Board has 4 churches and missions among the Italians with 14 missionaries.

5. Rescue Homes and Mission Centers. The Board has 12 Mission Centers and 2 rescue homes, with property valued at \$85,000.

6. The Western States. In the past few years a great field of work has been opened up by the admission into the Southern Baptist Convention of the churches in Arizona and California. In this territory there are at least 10,000,000 people, 7,000,000 of whom are unchurched.

7. City Missions. The Home Missions Board began this work five years ago, and now, in co-operation with the state mission boards, it has mission programs in 45 cities.

8. Rural Missions. The Home Mission Board, in co-operation with the state mission boards, has a rural program, the purpose of which is to revitalize our country churches.

9. The Chinese. The Home Mission Board is working with the Chinese. We have 4 missions, 8 missionaries, 3 chapels and homes for missionaries, and property valued at \$23,000.

10. The Canal Zone, Panama and Costa Rica. In this field the Board has 21 missions, 25 missionaries, and property valued at \$48,000.

11. The Deaf. Among the deaf, the Board has 9 centers of work and 7 missionaries.

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Dr. Lawrence, who has been secretary of the Home Mission Board since 1929, has had an outstanding denominational career, having come to the Board from Missouri where he was state missions secretary. He also served Mississippi as secretary.

As pastor, Dr. Lawrence served Greenwood, Mississippi; Humbolt, Tennessee; First Baptist Church of New Orleans; and the First Baptist Church of Shawnee, Oklahoma. He served for six years as editor of the *Baptist Chronicle*. For four years, 1922-26, he was president of Oklahoma Baptist University.

In addition to executive duties as secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, Dr. Lawrence preaches each week over forty-eight radio stations in the "Good News Hour."

12. The Negro. The work among the Negroes is in the field of education and training. We are also establishing mission centers in the larger cities.

13. Cuba. Dr. M. N. McCall has been the superintendent of the mission work in Cuba over forty years. In these years Dr. McCall has built a denomination. There is a strong, active convention with Sunday school, Baptist Young People's Union and Woman's Missionary Union organizations. There are right at 200 churches and mission stations, 120 missionaries, with property valued at more than \$1,000,000.

14. The Jew. The only way to evangelize the Jews is through the local churches. This is the method Dr. Gartenhaus is pursuing.

15. Education. "Trust the Lord and Tell the People" is the motto of the Board. The Board is telling the people through a magazine which has a circulation of 120,000, through the denominational papers with a page of publicity each month, through hundreds of thousands of tracts distributed, and through the more than 100,000 copies of mission study books which it prints and distributes every year.

16. The Evangelistic Department. The making and baptizing of disciples is the heart and soul of missions.

17. Church Schools of Missions. In co-operation with the Foreign Mission Board and the state mission boards, the Home Mission Board is carrying the mission message back to the local churches through the study of mission books and messages from missionaries.

18. Summer Student Work. The Board is trying to help mission volunteers to find themselves by giving them practice in mission work under the supervision of trained missionaries.

19. Radio. The Board, in co-operation with the Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has a transcribed program entitled "The Good News Hour," and is now preaching every Sunday over forty-eight stations from Washington, D. C., to California.

The Board also has a Spanish program over radio for the Mexicans. And Rev. Maurice Aguiard, our missionary to the French in South Louisiana, is preaching over the radio to the French. Dr. McCall uses the radio in Cuba.

20. Visual Education. This is an age of pictures. The Home Mission Board is planning to teach missions through the eye as well as through the ear.

This brief sketch gives a bird's eye view of the work of the Board in its various fields of service. The purpose of the Board in all of its work is to evangelize the homeland and mobilize the evangelized for world conquest for Christ.

There is much yet to be done, and as I see it, the task ahead in Home Mission fields is more fundamentally important in the ongoing of the kingdom of God than ever before. There are many reasons why this is true.

First our homeland will be more influential and powerful in the world of tomorrow than ever before and will exert a greater and more determining influence on the nations of the world of tomorrow than of the world of yesterday. This position of influence will greatly help us if we are spiritually prepared, to win the world to Christ. But we must be prepared spiritually.

In the second place, conditions of travel and communication will make all nations neighbors.

Third, all the missionaries we can send to fields afar will be but a dribble as compared with the vast flood of commercial travelers sent into all the world by our business enterprises to sell our wares. Unless we can convert these men or make our religious life so influential in our homeland that it will have an influence upon the men who go abroad, they will do vastly more to paganize the world than our missionaries can do to Christianize it.

Fourth, in the world of tomorrow the people of all nations will flock to our shores to study in our universities, to see the operation of our economic system, and to study our material achievements. Shall we not convert them?

Fifth, in the world of tomorrow the wonderful achievements of science will enable us here in the homeland to reach the world with the gospel.

In the sixth place, we must be spiritually prepared for this task.

Think on these things. Baptists are one great big brotherhood. Their interests are one. In the name of our Lord let us go forward to conquer for Christ.

A MEMORIAL TO DR. B. D. GRAY

Baron DeKalb Gray was corresponding secretary and executive officer of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1901 to 1928, and secretary emeritus until his death on November 25, 1946.

This was the period of the great numerical increase of Southern Baptists, and the enlargement of all the activities of the agencies and institutions fostered by the Southern Baptist Convention. When constituted in 1845 at Augusta, Georgia, its purpose was stated as "the enlisting, combining and directing the energies of Southern Baptists for the propagation of the Gospel." With limited receipts and the disruption of life in the South by the Civil War, it was only in the last two decades of the nineteenth century that the Home Mission Board under the leadership of Dr. I. T. Tichenor, corresponding secretary, became generally effective over its territory; and when Dr. B. D. Gray was elected corresponding secretary in 1903, he found a great resource of "energies" of Southern Baptists to be enlisted and directed.

Dr. Gray brought exceptional talent and ability to this task for which he seemed ideally fitted. Born in Wayne County, Mississippi, in a home of substantial Christian culture, even in the adversities of the Civil War during his childhood, the standards of Christian culture and life provided the enlightenment of his youth. He was converted at the age of sixteen and was called to preach at eighteen. He became an outstanding student at Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, and upon graduation in 1878 with the degree of A.M. entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, graduating therefrom with honors in 1883.

He was called to the pastorate of his college town church, the First Baptist Church of Clinton, Mississippi, where his talents as pulpit orator, Christian leader, and pastoral graces became manifested. In 1888 he accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Hazelhurst, Mississippi, and upon wider recognition of his ability as preacher and pastor he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, in 1893.

Dr. Gray had become known as one of the most eloquent and effective speakers among Southern Baptists and his influence was wide-spread in pulpit and convention. Having led in a state-wide debt paying campaign for Howard Baptist College in Alabama, it is not strange that Georgetown Baptist College of Georgetown, Kentucky, in 1901 should

have sought as its president this cultured, respected, denominational minister, whose voice was that of effective leadership among Southern Baptists.

But the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, offering the widest field of denominational service—the homeland—and requiring a chief executive official, in 1903 elected Dr. Gray to guide its own history-making destiny in Christian service. In this position he spent twenty-five years as a foremost representative of Southern Baptist Convention objectives in giving expression to Christian truth and service.

He gave high place to information and intelligent service in Christian living. The organization and promotion of the Baptist Young People's Union had his invaluable help. The promotion of an enlarged system of Baptist "mountain schools" in an underprivileged area of the South became a special feature of Home Board promotion.

The setting up in the Board of a department of enlistment of all church members became an important denominational work under the fine direction of Dr. B. C. Henning. The development of the Cuban mission and school program, so fortunate under the superintendency of Dr. M. N. McCall, received his unremitting support. The enlargement of the Church Building Loan Fund to aid in building churches became a worthy accomplishment with his endorsement and planning. The "Seventy-Five Million Campaign" of Southern Baptists was set up and set forward with his blessing, and its success led to the highly respected co-operative program of Southern Baptists now functioning so well.

Properties were purchased, and many substantial buildings were erected for missions and churches, schools and hospitals, for use by Baptists, all financed with receipts from the denomination or soundly financed by bond issues approved by the Convention.

Under his leadership as secretary, the Board assisted in founding and financing the Baptist Tuberculosis Sanitarium, El Paso, Texas, the great Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, and the improvement of the magnificent Baptist Temple in Havana, Cuba.

Dr. Gray stood in pulpits and before Conventions winning support for institutions when those who initiated the appeals could not evoke desired response.

The vast field of service in promoting and directing mission work of every nature in the homeland did not limit Dr. Gray in his mountain-top vision of the fields of denominational service. He was

a charter member of the Baptist World Alliance, organized in London in 1905, and served on its executive committee, attending every session of that body except in 1934.

At the beginning of the first World War no adequate provision was made for Baptist chaplains to be with the armed forces of our country. Dr. B. D. Gray, Dr. J. B. Gambrell, and Dr. George W. Truett so vigorously presented this need to the War Department in Washington that a provision was made, and the Home Mission Board was charged by the Southern Baptist Convention with responsibility for selecting and recommending such Baptist camp pastors.

Having earned the A.B. and A.M. degrees from Mississippi College and being a full graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1883, he was honored by his Alma Mater in 1890 with the degree of D.D. and in 1904 with that of LL.D., and in 1920 Baylor University conferred on him the degree of LL.D.

When the Cecil Rhodes scholarship fund was established for American students at English universities, Dr. Gray was named on the committee selecting these students from the central states in the United States.

Dr. B. D. Gray stands out as one of the small number of Southern Baptists of all time, notable for his modesty and unselfishness, and yet preeminent in all qualities of understanding and vision, of leadership and promotion, of inspirational eloquence and spirituality.

Dr. Gray was married to Miss Alma Ratliff, daughter of Captain W. T. Ratliff of Raymond, Mississippi, December 9, 1884. Their children are: Mrs. Carol Gray Crawford, Miss Mary Ratliff Gray, and B. D. Gray, Jr., all of Atlanta, Georgia.

Nowhere perhaps has he been better characterized than by a statement concerning him by Dr. Warren Mosby Seay, his biographer, as follows:

"...of noble and commanding physical form, with a keen discerning, discriminating and comprehending mind, with generous and loving heart, with a soul burning with apostolic passion to give the Gospel of Christ's salvation to a lost world, he was given the honor of serving his Lord far beyond the span allotted to most men in the Gospel ministry."

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIAL TO
DR. B. D. GRAY
B. M. Callaway, *Chairman*
W. A. Hewitt
J. D. Grey

(From the Minutes of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.)

A RECORD IN CITY MISSIONS

By JOHN CAYLOR

The first city mission program inaugurated by the Home Mission Board began in Atlanta, Georgia. For six years Atlanta has been the proving ground for the program. For two and a half years Dr. S. F. Dowis, now secretary of the department of co-operative missions, was superintendent of city missions in Atlanta. A pattern was set for the work in the cities of the South under his direction.

For three and one-half years Rev. E. E. Steele, who was pastor of Oakland City Baptist Church for ten years, has been superintendent of city missions in Atlanta. The record is worthy. Atlanta newspapers have carried the story of this achievement.

Seventeen new Baptist churches have been constituted during the six years of the city mission program in Georgia's capital. Thirteen of the churches own their own houses of worship, or are building.

The seventeen new churches average now more than a hundred members each. One of them has nearly 500 members. All of them began with small congregations.

There are four sites which have been selected recently by the Atlanta committee on city missions and prospects are bright for new churches in these areas.



Rev. E. E. Steele, superintendent of city missions, Atlanta

Large churches in the Atlanta association have placed items of from one thousand to ten thousand dollars in their budgets to foster missions which they expect to develop into situations strong enough to become churches.

EVANGELISM WITH OR WITHOUT A PROGRAM?

By C. E. MATTHEWS

Superintendent of Evangelism

Southern Baptists have always been evangelistic. We could not be otherwise and follow the teachings of Christ. For over one hundred years our Baptist people of the South have emphasized soul-winning of every type taught and practiced in the New Testament. We have done this without any definite plan of organization other than something temporary in nature and limited to an association, community, or city. We have set challenging objectives in soul-winning that were Southwide in scope, well-directed by capable leadership, but only temporary in the matter of duration. At

no time in the history of our denomination have we had a unified, perpetuating program of evangelism such as had been carried on by the Sunday school, Training Union, and Woman's Missionary Union.

The results from our efforts in evangelism without a definite denominational program are as follows:

1. We have consistently averaged around one convert to every twenty-two Baptists per year for one hundred years.

2. We are employing the same methods in evangelism that were practiced

NEW MISSIONS FOR TULSA

By A. L. LOWTHER

Superintendent City Missions
Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Tulsa City Mission Program, which was recently merged with the Tulsa-Rogers Association, has been in operation approximately three and one-half years. During this time, property has been bought and paid for in full or in part in twelve different fields. Some of these fields have grown into churches and others are operating as mission stations. Mission work has not been opened as yet in three of the fields.

At its regular meeting on December 9, the associational board voted unanimously to acquire suitable property and to open mission work in thirteen other areas in Tulsa Rogers Association. The communities in which work is to be established are: Rogers County—Oologah, Limestone, Verdigris, West Claremore, and Justice; Tulsa County—Berryhill, 21st and Peoria, 21st and Lewis, 11st and Harvard, Yale and Pine, 11th and Sheridan, Owasso, and Pine and Sheridan.

3. In this present super-organized, super-specialized, and super-technicalized social order we find mass evangelism at its lowest ebb in the history of the Christian religion. Some of the major denominations that once shook cities and communities with great mass revivals have given up mass evangelism.

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Evangelism With or Without a Program?

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altogether and are now limiting their efforts in this field to "visitation evangelism" only. Our Baptist churches have not gone quite so far, but we are gradually whittling down the duration of our revivals to ten days or one week and in many cases one service each day, due to the fact that even church members do not attend week-day services in numbers. Scarcely any unsaved people attend, in spite of the fact that moving picture theaters are enjoying their largest patronage and pleasure spots everywhere are filled with people. Sports events, such as football, baseball, basketball, prize fighting, etc., are breaking all attendance records.

4. We all are aware of the sickening fact that the moral standards of our churches have sunk to almost a level with the world and that formalism has laid its deadly hand, not just upon the downtown fashionable church, but even to our churches in small towns and communities.

What do we propose to do about the situation? Shall we throw up our hands and quit, or shall we turn to the God of Moses, of Gideon, and Elijah, the God that has methods to meet any condition that Satan can create in this world? The department of evangelism of the Home Mission Board is proposing a program to our states and our churches that we believe will meet conditions of the world as they are today. Lack of space forbids our giving this program here in detail. However, we shall state a few of the most vital elements in the program, as follows:

1. It is biblical. It is church centered. We believe that no constructive, lasting movement of evangelism can be carried on that does not center all of its activities in the local church. Our program does not call for creating new groups or new organizations within the church, but we propose to use the agencies we already have.

2. It is practical. What we mean by this is that it not only uses other church

agencies in perpetuating soul-winning, but it is as adaptable to the little church as it is to the big church and as effective in the rural section as in the large city.

The program calls for two definite things that are positively essential if we are to succeed in evangelizing the masses. First, we recommend setting up a Southwide organization using two units that are common in their existence throughout the Convention territory, the state and the association. All other denominational agencies operate through organizations in these two units. We are hoping that each state in the Convention will create a department of evangelism with a superintendent in charge in order that the work can be supervised. Then we recommend that each association elect two officers, an organizer and a general chairman. These are to be elected annually by the executive boards of the associations just as officers for other agencies are elected.

Second, we recommend a program that calls for emphasizing soul-winning of every type that God will bless, the main emphasis to be on the associational simultaneous crusade, which is the most effective type of evangelism Southern Baptists know anything about in this present changing world.

With a unified program we will be able as a denomination to correlate our efforts in evangelism and to teach new and effective methods to groups in simultaneous crusades and in state and Southwide conferences.

What Shall We Do In 1947?

In order to reach every lost soul possible for Christ in the year 1947, the Radio Commission and the department of evangelism of the Home Mission Board in joint leadership are asking all Southern Baptists to unite in a mighty effort in reaching the unchurched for Christ and reviving our churches through the broadcast of the Baptist Hour during the months of April, May, and June. A Southern Baptist program is being worked out through all Southern Baptist churches using the months

of January, February, and March for preparation in this gigantic effort. The program of preparation, as well as performance, will be given out from time to time. One very helpful plan for reaching the unchurched, suggested by Secretary S. F. Lowe of the Radio Commission, is the finding of prospects by the local church and then carrying on a systematic campaign of getting these people to listen to the messages over the Baptist Hour. This program will be church centered, too, using all the agencies in the local church in one great crusade for Christ.

Another very effective broadcast in evangelism in the South is the "Good News Hour" sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Forty-eight stations now carry this program. Dr. J. B. Lawrence is the preacher. More and more his messages are finding their way into the hearts of multitudes who listen. It is our belief that one strong preacher doing the preaching of Christ on a broadcast is the most effective method of reaching large numbers for Christ by radio.

We earnestly solicit the prayers of all Christians everywhere that God will revive His churches and endue His witnesses with great power from on high. Never was a confused world so ready for the message of Christ as now. Pray that wisdom from God may be given pastors and other leaders as we work together in finding God's program in evangelism for Southern Baptists.

Love and Sympathy

Love and sympathy are extended Secretary J. B. Lawrence and his daughters in their recent bereavement. Mrs. Lawrence died December 27 after a long illness and was buried in Atlanta on Monday, December 30.

Dr. James W. Middleton, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta in which church she held membership along with her husband, conducted the services assisted by Dr. Louie D. Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Lawrence was a Mississippian, and became the wife of Dr. Lawrence in 1900. Helen Alford Lawrence was known and loved for her Christian life and service in Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Georgia. First she was active in good deeds while her husband served as pastor, college president, state secretary, and more recently as secretary of the Home Mission Board

1946 In Review

By PORTER ROUTH

Recording Secretary, Southern Baptist Convention

FACTS OF INTEREST

Most significant development of 1946 has been the growth and progress of the United Nations. There are still problems, but progress is being made.

Depressing news of the year has been the fact that 600,000,000 people in the world have been on the verge of starvation or death through lack of clothing and heat.

Inflation has caused untold hardships around the world. Inflation goes unchecked in China. In the United States, the retail price index reached 151.7 on November 15 compared with the 1934-39 average. Income has also climbed.

Demobilization over the world has brought about an increased marriage rate, birth rate, and divorce rate. In the United States, one out of three marriages now end in divorce, more than 500,000 in 1945.

Millions of displaced persons in Europe and the growing number of migrants in the United States reflect a few of the postwar problems which call for more adequate housing.

Record numbers are enrolling in American colleges and universities, more than 2,000,000, but the number of qualified teachers fails to keep pace, as teachers leave profession for higher paying jobs.

IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION

Christians met the challenge of a world in need by sending food, missionaries, and Bibles. Methodists raised \$26,000,000, Presbyterians \$17,000,000. Southern Baptists raised nearly \$4,000,000 in summertime for world relief. More than 1,000 missionaries have sailed for Orient from various denominations. Others have gone to Africa and South America.

The Revised Standard Version of

the New Testament was published during the year to make the year memorable in the better understanding of the Bible.

Catholics named 32 new cardinals including the first Chinese cardinal; continued battle for political power with Russians in Europe, and with evangelicals in the United States over the status of Myron Taylor at Vatican.

The Church of the United Brethren and the Evangelical Church merged after considering the matter since 1813; the Episcopal General Convention refused the proposed plan of union with Presbyterians; and Northern Baptists and Disciples of Christ continued discussions on union.

Giving for local and mission work of all United States church groups reached the billion mark for the first time in 1946. This was small percentage of total \$127,000,000,000 spent during year for all goods and services, or \$165,000,000,000 income received.

BAPTIST HIGHLIGHTS

The year was marked by successful relief campaigns conducted by both Northern and Southern Baptists.

Progress in working out Christian approach to race relations was demonstrated in action of Georgia Baptists voting to have joint session with Georgia Negro Baptist Convention, and action of Southern Baptist Convention calling for more definite study of problem.

Change in Southern Baptist life was reflected by the revision of Convention Constitution, the retirement of Dr. Austin Crouch and election of Dr. Duke McCall as secretary of Executive Committee; Dr. Roland Q. Leavell was elected president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Death came during the year to

Dr. John R. Sampey, one-time president of Southern Seminary; Dr. B. D. Gray, one-time secretary of the Home Mission Board; and Dr. Walter M. Gilmore, treasurer and publicity director of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Baptist Sunday schools in Canada, Northern Convention, and Southern Convention climbed during the year, and Southern Baptist Training Union showed substantial gains. Baptisms stayed at approximate 1945 level, but renewed interest reflected with election of Dr. C. E. Matthews as secretary of evangelism for Home Mission Board.

Dr. Louie Newton made trip to Russia as member of United States Russian Relief Committee, and brought report of Baptist work in that country. He estimated that there were 2,000,000 Baptists in Russia.

All Baptist schools and seminaries are full and forced to turn down students.

Home Mission Week at Ridgecrest

On July 31 Home Mission Week will begin at Ridgecrest. This year evangelism and rural work will be emphasized at the assembly.

Under the supervision of Dr. Solomon F. Dowis, secretary of the department of co-operative missions, rural pastors and evangelists will hold daily conferences. It is expected that a thousand rural ministers will attend the assembly for Home Mission Week.

Dr. Alfred Carpenter, secretary of the department of direct missions, is expecting a large number of missionaries from language groups and mission centers to be in the program activities.

All phases of Home Missions will be presented in the assembly. Pastors, laymen, and women who are interested in Home Missions are invited to make their reservations and attend the assembly.

Dr. C. E. Matthews, superintendent of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, will speak several times. There will be an evangelistic speaker for each evening service.

CHOCTAW INDIANS PAY DIVIDENDS

By JOHN D. FREEMAN

I had forgotten that there is a tribe of Choctaw Indians in Mississippi until W. W. Simpson of Philadelphia, Home Board missionary, asked me early in 1946 to help in their 1946 Bible institute. "I think they have a right to call on you," he said, "for all of their churches are in the open country."

It was pleasant working with J. B. Rounds, director of the Indian work program of the Home Board, with Brother Simpson, and with Miss Nelle Taylor, Young People's Leader of the Mississippi W. M. U. The institute was held November 17-24 with Bethany



Scene at Bethany Church, Pearl River Choctaw Indian Reservation, Neshoba County, Mississippi, November 21, 1946. Each day, during the annual Bible conference arranged by Home Board missionary, W. W. Simpson, meals were cooked and served at the meetinghouse, both noon and evening. The Mississippi W. M. U. provided some of the food.

Church near the Pearl River Government School as host. S. D. Tubby is their pastor. Attendance amounted to several hundred for the week and the enrollment totaled about 140, including all their pastors and several other church leaders.

Great Needs

Like their fellow Indians throughout the nation, these Choctaws have had little opportunity for self development. They were settled on rolling, sandy hills whose soil washes so badly that untrained farmers of any kind soon destroy it. Few advantages have been afforded them, but the state mission board and the Home Board are changing the situation.

There are eleven widely scattered Baptist churches among them. These are nearly all on side roads which are poor, some impassable during bad winter days. Few of them have any means of transportation. The meetinghouses are wholly

inadequate, some unfinished or dilapidated. The Indians for the most part are too poor to provide necessary equipment for their work or to pay pastors anything like a living wage. Except for a few who serve their white neighbors, they have small cash incomes. Some of them are helpless victims of the greedy liquor vendors, and their families are often in want of the necessities of life while the victims of strong drink bring disrepute to the entire tribe.

A brief visit to the reservation will convince anyone who can see needs that these Baptists should have much immediate aid in improving their buildings, in providing training for their church leaders, especially their pastors, and in arranging so as to release their pastors from secular work.

Fruitful Missions

Where else can Baptists invest funds that will bring richer returns than those invested in helping the Indians? Notice the pictures presented herewith. The three little Indian girls are typical of



"Of such is the kingdom of heaven" may be said of Choctaw Indian children like these in the Pearl River Reservation, Neshoba County, Mississippi, for thirteen of them, grown to be young people, went away from the reservation in 1946 to attend high school or college, five girls to Clarke College, Newton, Mississippi.

hundreds of the children, bright, promising, keen-witted, ready to learn if given a chance. During the session of 1946-47 sixteen young people from this reservation were in college, the majority of them in Baptist schools where they make enviable records. One of the group of men who raised the flag on Iwo Jima, giving the world its memorable picture, was from this tribe. Hudson

Tubby who surrendered for Christian service had several machine gun bullets rip through his body before he finally fell during one of the great battles of Europe. Four lads volunteered for Christian work during the institute, and five of the fine girls had already volunteered and are preparing now for their labors.

Missionary Simpson is doing a fine work with limited resources. He is the friend of the Choctaws and they have discovered that. One night during the institute, a Choctaw woman, grown son, and little baby came into town, went to the missionary's home and waited his return from Bethany for him to take them to their home some twenty miles away. Like little children, many of them rely implicitly upon the white neighbor who loves them and helps them; they have not many who do these things.

Pastor Walter L. Johnson of First Church, Philadelphia, is leading his people to do more for the Indians. The state board is helping construct across the road from the Government school a meetinghouse which will serve as a model for the entire area. The Mississippi W. M. U. is rendering assistance in the work, and Miss Taylor has planned to have both boys and girls in the youth camps of next year. Things are growing brighter for these original Americans; let us be grateful for the privilege of righting to some extent the many wrongs inflicted upon them in years now gone.



A volunteer for Christian service, perhaps the ministry, is Hudson Tubby, Choctaw Indian of the Pearl River, Mississippi tribe. He is shown here with his attractive wife and little son. Four boys also volunteered, and their work in the ministry depends upon their being sent to school by some who have the means.

INDIANS IN FLORIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE

President Leon M. Gambrell of Florida Baptist Institute sends pictures of five Home Mission Board scholarship students attending the Institute. These are Seminole Indians from the Tamiami Trail in Florida. They are ministerial students. Each tells his own story.



Left to right: Junior Buster; Josie Billy; Barfield John; Dr. T. S. Boehm, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lakeland; Billy Osceola; Sam Tommie.

I am 20 years old. I was converted under Rev. Stanley Smith's preaching in 1945. My mother died in 1940, leaving two sisters and myself. I praise the Lord my sisters are Christians too, and I thank the Lord for this opportunity to go to school to study God's Word so that I may go back and help my people. I love to sing, and I want to study music too if that is possible.

—JUNIOR BUSTER

I am a licensed preacher and councilman of my tribe, having been converted under Dr. J. B. Rounds, Superintendent of Indian Missions, and baptized by him. I praise the Lord for this opportunity to go to school, that I may learn so that I can come back and help my people. I have been preaching to my people since I was converted, and I see the need of furthering my knowledge in Bible and other subjects so that I might do a greater work for the Lord.

—JOSIE BILLIE

I am 29 years old and live at the Indian Reservation at Brighton, Florida. My mother and father are dead. I have seven sisters and one brother but I am the only Christian in my family. I was

converted in 1945, and was baptized this year, 1946, and want to preach to my people. I was converted under Rev. D. O. Jernigan (deceased), the white missionary to the Seminoles. I praise the Lord for the opportunity of the school that I am to go to, to study for the ministry. I am praying for my sisters and brother. Three of my children are converted, and the baby will be taught the "Jesus way" as soon as he is old enough.

—BARFIELD JOHNS

I am 25 years old and was converted under Rev. Stanley Smith's preaching. I want to preach the Word of God. I have been interpreting, and used of God, and wish that I might do greater work. So I thank the Lord that I have this opportunity to go to school, that I might come back and work with my people.

—BILLIE OSCEOLA

I am 46 years old, a full blood Seminole Indian, living on the Dania Florida Reservation. I am chief of my tribe, who are hostile to education and Christianity, and was converted to the Baptist faith in March of 1945 under Rev.

Stanley Smith. I have been studying the Bible since then and now I want to further my studies as I have been licensed to preach and I want to help my people to see the "Jesus way." My prayers have been answered many times. May I tell you of some of my experiences? At one time my mother was very sick and at the point of death, when I prayed the Lord answered and she got well. Another time I was working hard for my family and badly needed a truck to do hauling. I prayed to the Lord for a way of transportation, and the Lord answered in three weeks' time with a car and I made it into a truck. There have been many other times also. Right now I am praying for a better place for my family, and better education for myself and children. I know the Lord will answer, so I praise the Lord for this opportunity of going to school.

—SAM TOMMIE

BOOK REVIEWS

An American Churchman in the Soviet Union. By Louie D. Newton. American-Russian Institute, New York. Ten cents.

Here is a 50-page review of the visit and impressions of Dr. Newton on his invited tour of Russia in twenty-five days of observation and study of Russian people. Dr. Newton gives especial attention to Baptists in Russia and his impressions concerning religious liberty and the interest of Russians in Christianity.

Meet Yourself in the Bible. By Roy L. Laurin. Van Kampen Press. 280 pages. \$2.50.

The author discusses thirty characters in the Bible representing thirty of his thirty-six classified basic types of situations. It is an interesting approach and the biographies are well done.

Subscriptions Pass 120,000 Mark

The January issue of *Southern Baptist Home Missions* went to more than 119,000. In the January mail there were fourteen church budget lists and two thousand individual subscriptions. This pushes us well beyond the 120,000 mark in subscriptions.

Through the church budget the magazine subscription costs only 20 cents a year. Every church in the Southern Baptist Convention ought to subscribe to the magazine for its members. Mission magazines and the state paper ought to be a first item in every church.

Looking Ahead

By COURTS REDFORD

The disciples were enroute from Jerusalem to Galilee with their Master. The record says that the Lord "must needs go through Samaria." He had a purpose in passing that way but, alas, it seems that the disciples did not understand or share that purpose. They were just passing through and doubtless would have greatly preferred the usual route up through Perea.

Jesus stopped by Jacob's well. Here he had the conversation with the Samaritan woman about her need of eternal life. Even as he was revealing himself to this woman as the promised Messiah the disciples were absorbed in the task of getting food for their physical bodies.

These disciples had answered the Master's call to become fishers of men. Jesus was doing the very thing that he had called them to do, yet they were indifferent if not actually critical of their Lord's work. Doubtless they expected to win converts, but they expected to win them in another place, at another time, under other circumstances.

It was their indifference that led the Master to inquire of them, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest?" Then, without waiting for their reply, Jesus declared, "Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

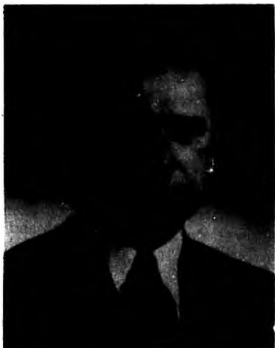
The disciples, blinded by other interests, by prejudice and by other plans, failed to see the need and the opportunity right at hand. They failed because of a lack of spiritual acumen and poor soul sight.

Let Southern Baptists not fail to see the needs and opportunities that surround us on every hand at this very moment. Let us pray that our eyes may be opened to behold the fields that are white unto harvest.

As I look ahead through the perspective of Home Missions, I see six things to which I would call your attention.

1. *God has a purpose for Southern Baptists.*

God has gathered together in the Bible belt of America more than two-thirds of all the Baptists in the world. They have the message that is needed in today's world. It is the message from God's Book to the human soul concerning a divine Saviour who gives new life and gives peace where fear, doubt, prejudice, and strife formerly abode. Southern Baptists are peculiarly fitted to take this message to a lost world.



Courts Redford, A.B., A.M., M.R.E. Assistant executive secretary of the Home Mission Board since 1943, Rev. Courts Redford came to the Board from a 15-year term as president of Southwestern Baptist College, Missouri. He previously served Missouri Baptists as superintendent of stewardship and laymen's work. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, University of Missouri, and Southwestern Seminary. In addition to his executive duties with the Home Mission Board, he has traveled the field extensively and perhaps known more missionaries than any other person connected with the Board.

2. *We cannot give to the world what we ourselves do not have.*

If we would lead the lost from the nations of the world to the foot of the cross we ourselves must know the way. Of course, we will not wait until we can make America fully Christian to carry the gospel to other lands, but the effectiveness of our message abroad will be determined largely by its vitality at home. If we cannot win the foreigner in our midst, how can we hope to win him in a heathen land?

The United States now has the highest divorce rate and the most crime of any nation in the world. Unless we can demonstrate that our Christianity is a vital force in everyday living, we shall have difficulty in winning converts among those who know of our impotency. Let us deepen our own spiritual wells that we may give the water of life to a thirsty world.

3. *There are more lost in our Southland than ever before.*

The unevangelized in our Convention territory is increasing by 300,000 per year. There are today more lost people among us than the total population of this area was five decades ago.

We now have about 56,000,000 in

our Convention territory. About 31,000,000 of them are unchurched and 24,000,000 have reached the years of accountability without Christ. There are 6,000,000 foreigners or people of foreign parentage, and 95 per cent of them are unevangelized. There are 2,500,000 isolated mountain people, 70 per cent of whom are unchurched. There are thousands of the underprivileged in our cities and nearly a million migrant people scattered throughout our land who have little or no gospel ministry. There are a million Jews, most of whom have never heard a gospel message. Eleven million Negroes live among us and half of them are not Christians. Furthermore, many of our own neighbors are lost and we are doing little or nothing to win them. It took twenty-four Baptists an entire year to win and baptize one convert in 1946.

4. *The missionary program of the Home Mission Board has proved effective.*

God has wonderfully blessed the missionaries of the Home Mission Board. The phenomenal success of recent years constitutes a challenge as we look to the future.

On May 12, 1943, the Home Mission Board was released from the shackles of debt which had hindered every department of its work for two decades. About this time the Board began to expand and intensify its work. During the four years from 1942 to 1945 inclusive, the 700 regular missionaries and 300 student missionaries served 797,360 days in mission service, made 668,652 personal visits, established 1,016 new mission stations, helped to constitute 228 new Baptist churches, reported 91,163 conversions, and reached 842,527 in mission study in Schools of Missions.

5. *Meeting a great challenge requires a great program.*

The Home Mission Board has sought to discern and evaluate the mission needs and opportunities in the Southland today. A program has been designed to meet these needs. The work of the Board is organized by departments.

The departments of direct and independent missions, under the direction of Dr. Alfred Carpenter, includes the work among the Spanish, Mexicans, French, Chinese, Italians, other foreign groups, Indians, goodwill centers, rescue and emergency homes, the deaf, and in Cuba, Panama, and the Canal Zone. More than 40 per cent of the total operating budget of the Board is allocated for this work and about two-thirds of the total missionary force is employed in this department.

NEW HOME MISSION BOOKS

1947 Graded Series: "World Evangelism"

SHINING LIKE THE STARS... .50

BY HAROLD E. DYE

This book approaches soul-winning from the standpoint of Home Missions. The first chapter is "The Call to High Adventure;" the second is the title of the book, "Shining Like the Stars." The third chapter gives some examples of soul-winning; and the fourth and fifth chapters apply evangelism to Home Missions.



For Adults and Young People

EVERYWHERE PREACHING THE WORD... .50

BY JOSEPHINE R. MEDLIN

This book for Juniors gives ten stories of how the gospel has been carried by foot, on horseback, by horse and buggy, boat, automobile, train, trailer, streetcar, station wagon, and by airplane.



For Juniors

TELL... .50

BY VIRGINIA WINGO

The first chapter states the reason why the good news should be told. Subsequent chapters give illustrations of how the gospel was given and received, how those who received it passed it on to others, and clinches the argument by challenging all readers to soul-winning.



For Intermediates

KATIE OF THE CANYON... .50

BY UNA ROBERTS LAWRENCE

This is a picture storybook. There are more than a hundred pictures. The type is 18 point. Readers declare this is Mrs. Lawrence's best work.

A resource book on the series is being prepared by Mrs. Lawrence, but the manuscript is not yet in hand.



For Primaries

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Continued on Page 12

Looking Ahead

Continued from Page 11

summer student mission program, and evangelism. A larger allocation was made for direct mission work; but most of the increase was absorbed in the increase in missionaries' salaries, and it will not be possible to add many new workers.

We have only one missionary couple among the 58,000 Navajo Indians. I had hoped that we might have others. We have mission work in only about half of the Indian pueblos of New Mexico, and these missions are inadequately

manned. I had hoped that we might serve the others.

We have sixteen great sections in South Louisiana in which we need French workers. It seems that we cannot have them now. We need Negro centers in at least ten additional cities, but our budget will not provide for such expansion. We had hoped to do more for our mountain areas and our rural preachers, but our limited budget will prevent our realizing that dream. There are many other immediate and urgent needs.

Southern Baptists are abundantly able to supply these needs. This work is not

MIDDLE GROUND

An Ohio Pastor recently inquired, "Would you fight as hard against Rightist Reactionism as you have fought against Leftist Radicalism?" The answer is an emphatic YES.

We can imagine exactly that reversal, but it is still a long way off. Freedom's present peril is leftist radicalism, not reactionism, and it is with NOW we must first deal. The nation has been pushed so far left of center that concerted effort will be required for a long time, to get back to Middle Ground—the ground where capital F Freedom takes root—the ground to which Christian Leaders are dedicated.

Communists, Redists, Fascists, Socialists and advocates of other forms of pagan statism, push leftward frantically. Some few who lack perspective may be hoping for a return of laissez-faire, the roaring twenties, control by Wall Street or some other anti-social dream-child. But this Crusade champions the Middle Ground where rights and responsibilities go hand in hand—including the rights and responsibilities of Freedom.

If you share our convictions and concerns about root Freedom, let us send you our monthly Bulletin and tracts for parish distribution in your church. Just sign below and you will hear from us promptly.

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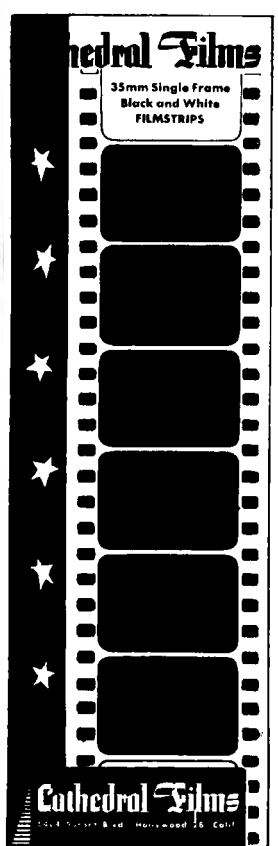
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the work of the Home Mission Board. It is rather the work of Southern Baptists which they may best accomplish through the Home Mission Board as their agency. We can serve only as our resources will permit. We seek to so distribute and use available funds as to produce the largest spiritual dividends. A large support of the Co-operative Program on the part of Baptists everywhere will make possible mission work in many of these needy places.

Mission opportunities and mission responsibilities do not wait. Open doors will be closed. Receptive hearts will be hardened. Homes will be broken. Jails

will be filled. Death will reap his harvest, and Southern Baptists will give an account of their stewardship.

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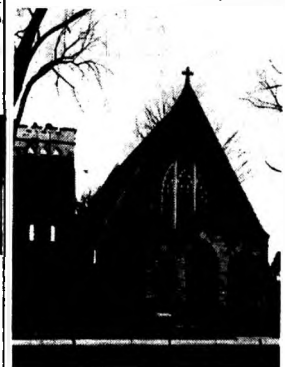
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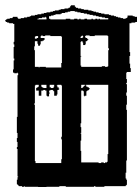
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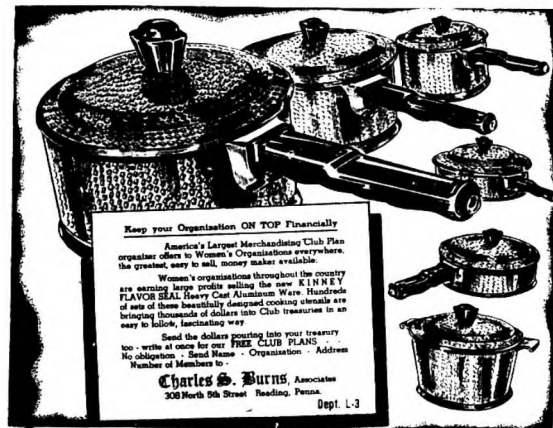
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