

3 Conventions Scheduled in Southland

Dart, John

Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Apr 19, 1980; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times

pg. A30

RELIGION NOTES

3 Conventions Scheduled in Southland

Missouri Synod Lutherans will celebrate 50 years in Southern California, another Lutheran body will mark 10 years of women ministers and the denomination that Aimee Kilean will hear a highly successful Korean preacher—all at separate conventions here next week.

The latter denomination is the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, founded by evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson in the 1920s. It opens a 7-day meeting Monday at Angelus Temple in the Echo Park district of Los Angeles.

The Rev. Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of the 100,000-member Full Gospel Central Church, Seoul, South Korea, will speak Friday night and twice on Sunday, April 27. The meeting opens

Monday night with a musical, "Majesty," written by the Rev. Jack Hayford, pastor of the Van Nuys Church on the Way and president of LIFE Bible College.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which started its Southern California missions in 1930 with mostly German Lutherans living in Anaheim, will open its 50th anniversary district convention in that Orange County city Thursday night at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Anaheim was also the setting for the 1975 national convention that signaled the exodus of leading "moderate" ministers and members, but the Southern California district suffered relatively few losses compared to other denominational districts.

Lutheran radio preacher Oswald C. J. Hoffman will speak Friday morning at the convention, which will have clergy and lay delegates from Arizona, Southern Nevada and Southern California.

More than 3,000 people are expected Saturday night when the convention moves to nearby Melodyland Christian Center for its anniversary celebration. The Rev. Carl W. Berner Sr., a charter member of the district, will be one of the speakers.

Delegates from the five-state Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America will meet for four days starting Thursday at the Los Angeles Marriott Hotel. The synod will mark the 10th anniversary of the denomination's decision to begin ordaining women as ministers. The convention also will consider 18 new candidates for ordination, including

three women, one of whom is part of a husband-wife clergy team.

Father Jack Hotckin, director of the U.S. Catholic bishops committee on ecumenical affairs, and UC Santa Barbara professor Walter Capps, new director of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, are among the convention speakers.

In a fourth and smaller church convention, Spanish-speaking members of the Church of the Nazarene in Southern California will start a series of meetings today at the Boyle Heights Nazarene Church. The Rev. B. Edgar Johnson, general secretary of the Kansas City-based Nazarenes, will address sessions Sunday night and Monday morning.

Other religious activities in Southern California include:

The 1st Annual Festival of Religious Music, a spinoff from the Los Angeles Street Scene Festival usually held in October, will be held today from 2-8 p.m. and Sunday from 2-6 p.m. on the grounds of the Mormon Temple Visitors Center. The free program is endorsed by the City of Los Angeles but uses no city funds. The participating music groups come from a variety of Christian and non-Christian congregations . . .

The Wilshire Presbyterian Church, destroyed by a fire Feb. 6, 1977, Sunday dedicated its new facilities at the same corner of 3rd and Western avenues . . .

Among the first recipients of 18 projects funded by the first Catholic Communications Campaign are these in Southern California: Father Ellwood Kieser's "Insight," Paulist Productions, \$60,000 for two family holiday television specials; Franciscan Communications Center, Los Angeles, \$40,000 for four television spots; Sister Elizabeth Thoman, CHM, director of National

Sisters Communication Service, Los Angeles, \$20,000 for training seminars; Paulist Communications, Pacific Palisades, \$10,000 for creation and distribution of radio spots . . .

Bishop Festo Kivengere, who spent several years in Southern California while in exile during dictator Idi Amin's bloody reign in Uganda, will be back in the Southland for several speaking engagements at Episcopal churches Sunday through Tuesday. His itinerary: Sunday—10 a.m. at St. John's, Los Angeles, and 3 p.m. at St. Anselm, Garden Grove; Monday—Noon, St. Francis, Palos Verdes Estates, and 7:30 p.m. at All Saints-by-the-Sea, Santa Barbara; Tuesday—7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's, Riverside.

—JOHN DART