

April 23, 1958

### Virginia Board Drafts \$2,900,000 Budget

LYNCHBURG, Va.--(BP)--The board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia has drafted a recommended 1959 Cooperative Program budget of \$2,900,000.

Association Executive Secretary Lucius M. Polhill said the budget recommendation may be increased to \$3 million. It will be submitted to the annual meeting of the association in November for approval.

It compares with a budget for the current year of \$2-3/4 million.

After deduction of \$300,000 to meet certain associational expenses, budget income will be divided with 40 per cent supporting Southern Baptist Convention missionary and educational work, and 60 per cent remaining in the state for local missionary and educational work.

The board's treasurer reported that receipts from the churches for the year to date are "considerably ahead" of the receipts for the same period a year ago.

The board held its meeting at Eagle Eyrie, state assembly ground, 10 miles outside Lynchburg. Eagle Eyrie management reported that the assembly was beginning its first year of year-round operation. Already nine meetings have been conducted.

A capacity attendance of 500 to 600 is expected this summer at Eagle Eyrie, according to Polhill. 21 churches have completed lodges and six more have them under construction. The state Baptist association will build two more hotel units and a main hall in the future.

A swimming pool, now under construction at the assembly, will be ready for the capacity summer attendance.

Two special committees are at work---one to propose a new state Baptist office building in Richmond and the other to study the relation of Baptist institutions in Virginia to the state association---but neither was ready to report to the board at this meeting.

Two new state denominational workers were introduced. They were Joe Hough, president of Oak Hill Academy in Grayson County, and W. H. (Bill) Jenkins, Richmond, new Baptist Student Union state secretary.

Property has been purchased adjacent to the University of Virginia campus in Charlottesville for erection of a Baptist student center. A \$75,000 building is planned. The Baptist student center is renting space elsewhere at present.

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### To Launch 'Operation Baptist Biography'

NASHVILLE--(BP)--"Operation Baptist Biography" will be launched this year to secure biographical information about as many Southern Baptists as possible.

Norman W. Cox, Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission, announced the project.

"No Baptist will be denied the opportunity of filing his or her biographical data," he said.

Cox said the "motivating concept and objective" for "Operation Baptist Biography" is found in Malachi 3:16 in which a "book of remembrance" is described.

"Southern Baptists in this venture undertake to secure the resource materials

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for a massive Book of Remembrance of the life and labors in Christ of their people," he continued.

The minimum number of biographical information sheets expected, according to Cox, is 10,000. "And surely we will go beyond that number. We know that easily there is a potential of 200,000."

"We have gathered records of churches, associations, conventions, and institutions; in many cases we have written histories and assembled files of Baptist periodicals, with comparatively no information about our people themselves as persons," Cox said.

Such a project would be a co-operative one, requiring participation of state Baptist historical groups and of Southern Baptist agencies. Many of the facts on biographical forms submitted would be punched on sorting cards for business machines in the office of research and statistics, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Such a punch-card file would enable immediate classification of biographical data in certain groupings such as occupations, church and denominational positions, etc.

The original files would be kept by the Historical Commission for further reference.

"'Operation Baptist Biography' will gradually communicate to our people the fact that neither God nor their brethren will forget their service," Cox said.

"It will provide for all time to come a reservoir of information that will enable our Baptist people more adequately to interpret themselves."

The biographical files would yield important information for Baptist writers, he added.

The operation provides for securing biographical information on dead as well as living Southern Baptist people. The form to be filled out covers personal history such as place of birth, parents, childhood residence, education, marital information, religious experience, church and denominational activity, public service, clubs, hobbies, and the like.

A person other than the subject of the biography will be asked to write a descriptive characterization of the person, outlining the person's contribution to Christianity. (This is designed to supplement strictly objective statistical information with evaluations and life experiences.)

The operation will be financed by asking \$1 for each subject on which biographical information is submitted. The state historical society retains 50 cents on each subject, and remainder is sent to the SBC Historical Commission, Cox said.

This will supply ample money to cover expenses of the project, he continued.

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Tift To Construct  
Phys Ed Building

FORSYTH, Ga.--(BP)--Tift College for girls here plans to start construction this summer on a \$350,000 physical education building.

Carey T. Vinzant, president, in announcing the goal said it would take a year to erect the building. The building is part of the \$1 million enlargement program launched five years ago under Vinzant's administration.

A library, president's home, and dormitory have been completed with two additional units for the dormitory still to come. Tift is a Georgia Baptist Convention school.

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North Carolina Child  
Care Officer Retiring

THOMASVILLE, N. C.--(BP)--W. C. Reed, general superintendent of child care for Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 1950, has announced his retirement.

It would become effective June 30. Reed's 65th birthday was in April. The request for retirement was in a letter to the chairman of the board of trustees of the state's Baptist children's homes and will be presented to the board at its May meeting.

Announcement of Reed's desire to retire was somewhat of a surprise to children's home staff members. Under a policy that permits staff members to retire voluntarily at 65, and makes retirement mandatory at 68, Reed could have served for three more years.

The chairman of the trustees also named a three-member trustee committee to recommend a successor to Reed. The nomination may be presented at the May meeting.

Reed's administration has been marked by consturction and by improvement in existing physical facilities. Children were transferred from a private school on the children's home campus here to Thomasville public schools.

An Indian orphanage at Pembroke, N. C., was added to the state child care program.

Supt. Reed drove about 38,000 miles a year filling speaking engagements and working in the interest of child care support among Tar Heel Baptists.

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\$180,621 Dining Hall  
For Ouachita College

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.--(BP)--W. C. Burrow Co. of Malvern, Ark., has been awarded the contract to build a new dining hall at Ouachita Baptist College here.

The Malvern firm bid \$180,621. Construction is to begin in two weeks, it was indicated. The building will be air conditioned.

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Board Asks Authority  
To Amend Its Charter

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board here will ask the Southern Baptist Convention to authorize a change in the board's charter increasing the maximum number of board members.

The charter, issued by the state of Tennessee, limits the board to 50 members. It presently has 49 members under representation provided for in the SBC constitution and by-laws.

The Sunday School Board wants the limitation increased from 50 members to 100 members.

Administrative Asst. J. M. Crowe reported that it was "routine" and designed to "bring state charter provisions and Convention Constitution and by-law requirements into harmony."

Crowe explained that the growth of the Convention will probably mean that state representation on the board will be increased beyond 50 at a future date.

Article IV of the Convention Constitution states that general boards shall have 18 local members (living near the board office) and "one member chosen from each co-operating state; and one additional member from each state having 500,000 members, and another additional member for each additional 250,000 members in each state."

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By-law 17 states that "when the co-operating Baptist churches in a state or territory have 25,000 members, they may file application for representation . . ."

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J. Howard Williams,  
Pastor-Educator, Dies

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Dr. J. Howard Williams, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died here Apr. 20 following a severe heart attack.

He was 63 years old.

Funeral services were held Apr. 22 in Truett Auditorium on the campus of Southwestern Seminary. In charge of the services was Guy Moore, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Ft. Worth.

Named pallbearers for the funeral were the seven department heads of the seminary. They are E. James McKinney, dean of the school of church music; Jessie Northcutt, dean of the school of theology; Joe Davis Heacock, dean of the school of religious education; L. B. Reavis, director of promotion and endowment; Felix Gresham, dean of students; Wayne Evans, business manager; Charles P. Johnson, director of library, and Jack Dean, acting dean of the school of church music.

Dr. Williams suffered the heart attack late Saturday night, after returning from Gatesville, Tex. At Gatesville, he gave the invocation at dedicatory ceremonies for a new chapel at the state training school for boys.

He was taken to Harris Hospital, Fort Worth, where he died at 9 a. m. Sunday.

Dr. Williams, president of the seminary since 1953, had previously served as executive secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and was an outstanding Baptist minister in Texas and Oklahoma.

His death is mourned by thousands of people throughout the world who have known Dr. Williams as a true, sincere, and devoted Christian gentleman.

His influence through the seminary and other phases of denomination and civic activities will long be felt.

The Friday before Dr. Williams's death, the seminary ended the third of its special jubilee emphasis weeks. The three special weeks were devoted to the three phases of its educational program--religious education, theology, and church music.

The one just concluded emphasized church music.

The next part of the jubilee observance was to take place May 16, Homecoming Day at the seminary. Scheduled for that day were commencement exercises and dedication of a new student housing facility.

The following week, the seminary was to continue its jubilee observance with special features as a part of the order of business at the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

Southwestern's presentation at Houston was to center around Dr. Williams, the seminary news office reported. By custom, the Southern Baptist Convention seminaries report at a special time together, followed by an address by one of the seminary presidents.

Dr. Williams was to have brought the address at this session.

A meeting was scheduled by seminary leaders to decide the future of the jubilee year celebration. The trustees also were to meet to chart seminary administration until a new president is selected.

Dr. Williams had suffered another serious heart attack approximately 10 years ago. However, his popularity and effectiveness as a preacher and speaker kept him in constant demand.

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He had heavy duties at the seminary. Typical of the current schedule he was keeping are his engagements left unfilled on the day of his death: preaching at jail services in Ft. Worth with a group of students; preaching at both morning and evening services of Olive Place Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, where he was serving as interim pastor; and appearing at the dedication at the new Wedgewood Baptist Church.

Among the outstanding accomplishments by Dr. Williams at Southwestern were the additions to the physical facility of the school.

When he was inaugurated in 1953, he started his administration with a challenge: a \$10 million program of the expansion and endowment to enable Southwestern to meet new responsibilities and opportunities throughout the world.

He had already seen the realization of part of his dream in the additions to Fleming Library and Memorial Building.

He also saw the erection of 12 new student apartment buildings near the campus. These buildings are now being occupied and will be dedicated formally following commencement exercises May 16.

These 12 buildings with 96 units comprise the first of 500 units which Dr. Williams had originally planned for married students and their families.

Included in his dreams for the future were the building of a nursery for children of seminary students, and a student center building.

Dr. Williams was born in Dallas, on July 3, 1894. He had the B.A. degree from Baylor University, the Th.M. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. In 1932, Baylor University awarded him the honorary degree, doctor of divinity.

He married the former Miss Floy Kelly in 1920. They had five children.

Mrs. Williams and the children survive his death. Children are: Mrs. Frank F. Sandford, Chicago; Mrs. Joe T. Mason, Bartlett, Tex.; J. Howard Williams, Jr., Houston; Kelly Dan Williams, Houston; and Mrs. M. D. Woodruff, Ft. Worth.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Please make the following revisions in the suggested Order of Business for the 1958 Convention.

THURSDAY

9:25-9:50 a.m.---Report of Christian Life Commission.

FRIDAY

3:05-3:15 p.m.---Report of Committee on Theological Education

3:15-3:30 p.m.---Report of Historical Commission

3:30 p.m.---Address by R. G. Lee

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Clip And File, Handy  
Information On Houston

HOUSTON--(BP)--If you're coming to Houston for the 1958 Southern Baptist Convention, you might like to clip and save this information about where facilities in the Coliseum are located.

The Houston Baptist general arrangements committee makes the report.

A first aid station has been provided for any emergency. It is located just inside the main entrance to the Coliseum, just to the right of the front entrance to the auditorium proper.

Large rest rooms are located on the north, east, and west sides of the Coliseum, both upstairs and down. Water fountains also are to be found adjacent to rest rooms.

In the foyer of the Walker St. entrance will be found the following conveniences for messengers and visitors:

1. Information booth
2. Transportation desk for railroads, airline, and bus information and reservation.
3. Pay telephones (just inside Coliseum - off foyer)
4. Excursions and tours desk
5. Home assignment desk
6. Registration desk
7. General officer of auditorium arrangements committee will be just inside the Coliseum - off the foyer

In the east entrance, Bagby St. side of the Coliseum will be:

1. Stamps, mailing facilities, and place to call for mail sent to individuals and addressed to Southern Baptist Convention.
2. Check room facilities and lost and found.

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April 23, 1958

### Army, Navy To Be Asked About Religious Symbols

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The Army and Navy will be asked to state their policies governing religious symbols and patron saints in relation to military installations and operations.

This action was taken by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in semi-annual meeting here. The Committee is composed of representatives from six national Baptist conventions with nearly 18 million members. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

Other actions of the Committee included a commendation of the Bureau of the Census for ruling out the religious question from the 1960 census, and plans for a booklet giving the facts on the religious liberty problems of South America.

The request for the Army and Navy to outline their policies regarding the use of religious symbols came as a result of the inclusion of a Saint Christopher medal in the second stage of the three-stage rocket that sent the satellite, Vanguard, into space, and because of the Holy Name Society sponsorship of Saint Maurice as the patron saint of Infantry during a celebration planned at Fort Benning, Ga. St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers for Roman Catholics and St. Maurice is the patron saint of Roman Catholic infantry.

A rising tide of protest in the nation over the use of religious symbols and activities on public property gives further point to the inquiry into the policies of the Army and Navy.

In its meeting last fall the Baptist Public Affairs Committee passed a strong resolution opposing the proposed question, "What is your religion?" to be asked in the 1960 census. A subsequent announcement from the Bureau of the Census stated that the question had been ruled out for 1960, but that the matter is still open for a future census. In the meantime the government continues to ask the question in spot surveys over the nation.

The action of the Baptist group commended the Bureau of the Census for its decision on the 1960 census and urged application of the same action to the Bureau's periodic surveys and voluntary questions.

The booklet to be prepared on religious liberty in South America looks forward to the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1960. It is hoped that a copy of the booklet can be placed in the hands of every person planning to attend the Congress, so he will be aware of religious conditions in South American countries.

In reports to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs religious liberty problems involved in preferential postal rates for religious publications were pointed out. The Committee had its attention called to the current proposals that Federal aid to education be given across the board to all schools alike, whether they be public, private or sectarian.

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Plans looking forward to the Religious Liberty Conference scheduled for Washington, Sept. 16-18, were discussed, as well as an enlarged program of activities and service on the part of the Committee in future years. The exact structure for this expanded service was not worked out, but decisions may be reached in the fall meeting of the Committee.

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Russian Baptists Send  
Message of Love, Peace

WASHINGTON--(BP)--"Tell American Christians that we love them and that we want peace." This is the message brought back from Moscow from Russian Baptists by Congressman Brooks Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A recent visitor in Moscow as a representative of the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC, Hays reports significant progress for the gospel in Russia. There are now 550,000 Baptists in 5,000 churches.

"Russians do not have religious freedom as I know it," Hays stated, "but they have more freedom now than under the Czars." Restrictions on the printing of Bibles were recently eased with permission being granted for 50,000 to be published.

Hays traveled in the company of Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, and president of the American Baptist Convention. Mrs. Cranford also made the trip.

The American visitors reached the Baptist church in Moscow at 8:45 A.M. to find a long line of people waiting outside. The church was filled to capacity, seating 1,400 but with some 2,000 people present. The service was two hours long.

"Having witnessed this demonstration of great devotion by Russian Baptists, I won't complain ever again if I have to stand to hear a service," Hays declared.

In his talk to the Moscow church Hays told of his early churchlife and commented on the thousands of miles he had traveled to be with them.

At the end of the service the group sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Hays said he looked over at Cranford and he was crying, "and I cried too."

"My Christian witness took on a new meaning that day," Hays reports. "I want to dedicate myself more completely than ever to the simple things we stand for."

In the service Hays noted that there were more women than men. He says this is partly because of war. The Russians lost more men in one battle than the United States lost in the entire war in the Pacific. The Russian pastors report that 20 per cent of their congregations are young people.

There are no Sunday schools in Russia because of the governmental monopoly on education. However, the Baptists told Hays that "our home is our Sunday school and our grandmothers are our teachers."

Most of the people in the congregation appeared to be from the poor classes, Hays reported, "but among them were some fairly well-dressed men and women. A very attractively dressed choir led magnificent singing."

Impressed with the significance of his visit, Hays says that "we must promote further exchanges of this sort. Such an exchange is as important in religion as the Fulbright bill is in education."

The Russian Baptists sent special greetings to Arnold T. Ohrn, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, Paul Caudill, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., Theodore F. Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance, and to W. O. Lewis, retired secretary of the BWA. These men had previously visited in Russia.

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Hays was invited back to visit the Baptists in Leningrad, Riga, Kiev and Odessa.

In appraising the work of Russian Baptists Hays says that "we must not identify success and greatness with numbers." "Some of our greatest moments in our Baptist history were when we were a minority."

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Liquor Advertising Bill  
Bottled in Committee

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Baptists of the nation joined forces with other religious groups here to urge passage of legislation to ban interstate advertising of alcoholic beverages on radio, television and other interstate media.

Hearings have been conducted before the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of which Warren G. Magnuson (D., Wash.) is chairman.

Adiel J. Moncrief, chairman of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and John W. Thomas, executive secretary of the Council on Christian Social Progress of the American Baptist Convention, appealed for passage of the Langer bill, S. 582. They were joined by Dale Jones, Baptist student leader in the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Ark.

Both the American and Southern Baptist leaders based their testimony on resolutions previously passed by both conventions opposing the advertising of beverage alcohol.

Asserting that the nation spends twice as much for alcoholic drinks as for the entire educational system, Moncrief asked, "Can it be considered political and economic wisdom to aid and encourage the alcoholic beverage business which syphons off so large a portion of the national income through a policy of advertising and promotion?"

Ethyl alcohol is a narcotic, declared Moncrief. It is a most important ingredient found in beer, wine, whiskey, gin and all other alcoholic drinks. "But it is not described as a narcotic in the advertisements."

"Alcoholic beverage advertising disguises the product's true nature and is therefore misrepresentation."

Thomas declared that the American Baptists opposed advertising beverage alcohol because it is in the category of a poison. The consumption of alcohol is the cause of highway accidents, is a factor in crime and delinquency, contributes to divorce and the break-up of family life, and is a definite consideration in many other social ills.

Because such advertising is misleading and unethical, Thomas said that American Baptists are opposed to it.

Jones approached the problem from the viewpoint of youth, and opposed alcoholic beverage advertising on the ground that it is a threat to the home, and to the health of the nation, that it is a chief cause of juvenile delinquency, and that the cost to government as a result of the liquor traffic is greater than the revenues derived therefrom.

Upon inquiry the Baptist Press was told by well-informed sources that the history of this proposed legislation was to keep it in the committee and not to allow it on the floor of the Congress for vote. The feeling was expressed that if the measure were ever allowed on the floor, it would be passed.

A key figure in getting legislation from the committee to the Congress for action is the chairman of the committee. The opinion expressed to the Baptist Press was that unless enough heat were turned on the chairman of the committee, the bill would die in the committee and that the hearings were only a formality to appease the opponents of liquor advertising.

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