

April 27, 1958

New Miami Beach Hall Almost Ready To Open

MIAMI BEACH--(BP)--The new convention hall here where Southern Baptists will hold their 1960 session is nearing completion and will be initiated with another church convention---that of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Termed the biggest hall in the South, it will have an over-all floor area of 200,000 square feet and seating space for 15,000 persons. The new structure will be one of the most serviceable public buildings in the country.

The 70-foot high auditorium will have 10 rooms for meetings and exhibits apart from the main area---108,000 square feet of unobstructed space.

Southern Baptists are only one of five groups---totaling more than 70,000 conventioners---who already have contracted for the hall for five successive periods of about a week each in 1960. Those conventioners will spend an average of \$30.89 a day and will stay here an average of 5.54 days.

This means that between Apr. 24 and June 2, 1960, conventioners will put \$11,979,142 into the area's economy.

While the Episcopal convention, which will inaugurate the hall with 20,000 visitors in October, and the Southern Baptist Convention, expected to draw over 15,000, are the only church meetings definitely signed so far, other religious groups also are expected to be using the hall.

The \$3-1/2 million structure also is expected to be the site of national political conventions and sports events.

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Georgetown To Honor Baptist Journalist

GEORGETOWN, Ky.--(BP)--Georgetown College here will confer the honorary Litt. D. degree on Erwin L. McDonald, Little Rock, editor of the Arkansas Baptist.

The degree will be conferred May 30. McDonald became editor of the weekly Arkansas paper in 1957 after serving as executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Christian education department.

Georgetown College is operated by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Editor McDonald is the product of another Baptist college, Ouachita, in Arkadelphia, Ark. He also holds the master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville.

Others on whom Georgetown will confer honorary degrees at the same time are:

Kenneth McCracken, vice-president of Procter & Gamble Co., Cincinnati, alumnus of Georgetown, LL.D. degree.

George Alonzo Jacoby, Birmingham, Mich., General Motors Corp., Georgetown alumnus, LL.D. degree.

Raymond L. Sanderson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pineville, Ky., and Georgetown graduate, D.D. degree.

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W. L. Howse To Get
Honorary Doctorate

JACKSON, Tenn.--(BP)--W. L. Howse, Jr., director of the education division, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will receive the honorary LL.D. degree at Union University here June 3.

Howse, a native of Fayetteville, Tenn., is an alumnus of Union. His son, Bill, is a student at Union now.

The Baptist educator received his bachelor of arts degree from Union in 1926. He followed it with a master of arts from Baylor University in 1932 and a master of religious education and doctor of religious education from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in 1934 and 1937.

Howse also is a former professor at Southwestern Seminary.

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Mumps Don't Spoil
Revival Services

GRIFFIN, Ga.--(BP)--Neither the pastor nor the evangelist saw each other during the week's revival in First Baptist Church here but the pastor heard every word in every service.

Pastor Sidney L. Waterhouse, embarrassing as it was, went to bed with the mumps just before services were to start. L. Trammel Buckalew of the neighboring Oak Hill Baptist Church came to the rescue and did the preaching--which the pastor heard through a special line run from the church to his bedside.

There were 16 additions, with 13 for baptism.

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Kansas Board Supports
Government Loan Bill

WICHITA, Kans.--(BP)--The executive board of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists has voted unanimously to support a Senate bill designed to make funds available to hospitals, schools, and other institutions on a loan basis at a nominal rate of interest.

The Kansas board also expressed opposition to the present Hill-Burton Act, which provides outright grants of public tax money for such institutions---even to those operated by a denomination or other religious organization.

Executive Secretary N. J. Westmoreland of Kansas convention declared:

"Such laws as the Hill-Burton Act violate the fundamental doctrine of separation of church and state."

Most Baptists have believed that providing grants of tax money to sectarian-operated institutions is a direct violation of the first amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

Senate Bill No. 3497 is the bill which would provide loans to institutions.

Kansas Baptist action was similar to that taken in June, 1956, at the semi-annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee at that time asked Congress to amend the Hill-Burton Act to exclude grants to sectarian hospitals, and asked for a law providing long-term government loans instead.

Kansas Baptist action will include a letter to all Kansas Congressmen and Senators informing them of the executive board's feelings.

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Church-State Conflict
Remedied---Committee

MOUTH OF WILSON, Va.--(BP)--Oak Hill Baptist Academy here has complied with all instructions given it last year to remedy matters affecting separation of church and state, a Virginia Baptist committee has reported.

"We wish to state specifically and clearly that there is no longer any improper or questionable relationship between the academy and the Grayson County School Board or any other governmental unit," the committee reported to the board of missions of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

"No public tax monies from any source are received by the academy for any purpose.

"We observe, with gratitude, that the county school board has been able to arrange, apparently without hardship, to accommodate in its own buildings elsewhere the students previously housed in school rooms rented from the academy," the committee continued.

"This transfer was accomplished 12 months earlier than we requested so that there is now no county school operation on the academy campus; thus our problems in the areas of bus operation, rental to the county, and lunch program, have all been eliminated."

A committee study had shown that the principle of church-state separation was involved in these ways:

1. The county school board was renting classroom space in buildings of the Baptist-owned academy and was, according to the committee, paying less rent to the academy for its space than for rented classrooms in another community.

2. The county school board and the academy had a reciprocal agreement whereby the academy's bus was used along with county buses to transport pupils to the academy campus.

Under the arrangement, the academy bus picked up county pupils on its run as well as academy pupils, and the county buses picked up academy pupils as well as public school pupils on their routes.

3. The academy was operating a "hot lunch" program for the benefit of public school pupils. Thus, it received from the government as part of the school lunch aid program certain foodstuffs and got a discount on the price of milk served to pupils.

With the remedy of matters involving church-state relations, the committee recently declared: "Oak Hill Academy is in a better condition in all respects at the present time than it has known for several years."

The state board of missions authorized the academy to spend up to \$10,000 to complete a gymnasium-classroom building, and about \$12,000 to install a new sewage disposal system to meet county requirements.