

September 25, 1960

\$1 Million Relief Fund Proposal Being Studied

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A proposal to create a million-dollar a year relief fund for Southern Baptist "good deeds" in time of trouble around the world has been taken under advisement by the Convention's Executive Committee.

E. S. James, Dallas, editor of the 350,000-circulation Baptist Standard, brought the proposal before the Executive Committee at its fall session.

He first outlined the idea in an editorial in the Standard June 29, shortly after thousands were killed, injured, or made homeless by earthquakes in Chile.

He told the Executive Committee that Southern Baptists need such a fund to help disaster victims because Christ commanded that his followers engage in "good deeds."

In his editorial, James had declared that 9½ million Southern Baptists "ought to be ashamed of what they have done for relief to the earthquake victims of Chile." At that time, \$7500 had been made available.

Since June, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has allocated almost \$120,000 more for Chilean relief. Chile is one of Southern Baptists' mission countries in South America.

The proposal for the giant Baptist charity fund was taken under advisement by the program committee of the Executive Committee, after leaders pointed out a program requiring this much money needed more study than could be given to it in one day.

James chided Baptists for letting Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Seventh-Day Adventists, and the National Council of Churches outdo them in relief work.

-30-

Grindstaff To Join Stewardship Agency

(9-25-60)

(Picture to follow)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--W. E. Grindstaff, assistant executive secretary of Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has been elected to a stewardship position with the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Effective Oct. 15, Grindstaff will become director of Cooperative Program Promotion with the S B C Executive Committee, according to Merrill D. Moore, Nashville, secretary of stewardship promotion.

When the new S B C Stewardship Commission becomes an independent Convention agency next Jan. 1, Grindstaff will have the same responsibilities with this new body.

Stewardship promotion, which has been a part of the work of the Executive Committee, becomes the assignment of a separate agency following a reorganization of Convention programs and work.

Grindstaff had been elected a member of the Stewardship Commission but will resign that office to accept the directorship.

The Cooperative Program, described as the "life-line" of Southern Baptists, provides support to state and Southern Baptist Convention missionary, education, and benevolent work. By setting aside certain of their offering receipts to be used through the Cooperative Program, churches furnish financial aid to all work in which Southern Baptists engage.

-more-

Grindstaff, 48, a native of Missouri, served as pastor of several Oklahoma churches. He was a chaplain in the United States Army and once was director of evangelism for Colorado Baptists.

He is author of guidebooks for churches, both in stewardship and in evangelism.

-30-

New Hospitalization
Plan Offered Workers

(9-25-60)

By the Baptist Press

All that is needed to put into effect a new hospitalization group insurance program for Baptist ministers and others in church-related vocations is the O. K. of messengers attending the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention.

The plan will be offered through the Convention's Annuity Board to all those who participate in one of its retirement programs for Baptist workers. It provides hospitalization, term life insurance, and major medical coverage.

R. Alton Reed, Dallas, executive secretary of the Annuity Board, presented the three-phase plan to the Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn. The Executive Committee added its recommendation, thus putting the question directly before messengers in St. Louis next May.

Although the insurance program would be available to all Baptist ministers and denominational and church workers having retirement certificates, the program probably will benefit most of those pastors and church workers who now have no opportunity for group-plan insurance.

The Baptist Sunday School Board, largest employer among Southern Baptist Convention agencies, introduced its own major medical-hospitalization-term life insurance program Jan. 1, 1959 serving 800 to 900 workers. A board executive said the Annuity Board plan had not been discussed with the Sunday School Board.

Also covered by the Sunday School Board plan are employees of other Baptist groups in Nashville--the S B C Executive Committee, Historical Commission, Education Commission, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation, and Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Reed said if messengers approve the plan, the Annuity Board, would be ready to start operation about July 1, 1961.

Reed said a minimum of 2,000 persons would have to enrol to put the Annuity Board plan into force, but he felt that perhaps there are more than 4,000 people who are ready to start.

The plan is divided into three major benefits--hospitalization, group term life insurance, and major medical insurance. To get hospitalization, group term insurance must be included. However, major medical protection is optional, but is definitely recommended as a valuable feature at a low cost.

Although not final, the benefits are tentatively defined as follows: Under the group term life insurance, the plan provides for \$2,000 coverage for a person under 65 years of age and \$1,000 for those over 65.

The optional major medical insurance provides for a maximum of \$10,000 per individual. The member would assume the first \$100 of expense; the plan would take care of cost up to \$5,000. Above this amount to \$10,000, the plan would assume 80 per cent.

This plan will cost nothing to the Southern Baptist Convention, state convention, or the local church, Reed said. Each participant would assume his own payments in this plan.

"If we can't give our people something equal to or better than what they now have, we shouldn't offer it," he told the committee. "To have this cost for this protection was a major factor."

-more-

Reed said the plan will be completely underwritten by a major national insurance company whose name will be announced later.

Administrative costs and promotion of the plan will be assumed by the Annuity Board, Reed said.

Several Baptist agencies that have similar hospitalization plans with other companies have indicated an interest in comparing costs and benefits.

Floyd B. Chaffin, associate secretary and Fred W. Noe, treasurer of the Annuity Board attended the executive committee meeting with Reed for this presentation.

-30-

Folks & facts.....

.....Miss Willa Dean Freeman, Girls' Auxiliary director for Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, Jackson, has resigned to take a similar position with Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh. (BP)

-0-

.....W. C. Tyler will be inaugurated as president of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., on Oct. 25. Blue Mountain College is a senior girls' college operated by Mississippi Baptist Convention. (BP)

-30-

Pioneer Missions
Film Released

(9-25-60)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--A filmstrip treating pioneer missions, a major emphasis of Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board, has been released by the board's education and promotion division.

The board has reached into every state in the United States and expends 65 per cent of its missions division budget for this work, according to Executive Secretary Courts Redford of Atlanta. "Today's Pioneers" reveals the growth and development of Southern Baptist churches and missions in northern sections of the United States from east to west in its 65 color frames.

At a premiere of the filmstrip in Texas' District 16, one pastor said, "Our people were more impressed by this filmstrip than any one we have ever shown in our church."

Missions secretary for the district, Clifford Nelson, said, "This is the finest piece of work done on presenting the pioneer missions field and work in America to our people."

"Many of us will never go to a pioneer missions field and this filmstrip brought the mission field to us," said one church member concerning the film which shows the rapid growth of Southern Baptist churches in this area from 1780 to 1900.

"Today's Pioneers," on sale at Baptist Book Stores for \$3.50, traces mission work in pioneer areas from the initial contact made by a Southern Baptist living in the area. The filmstrip shows how the local missionary leads in the establishment of a mission, the constituting of a church, the growth of churches, and the establishment of an association. How these steps lead to the eventual formation of a state convention of Southern Baptists is also demonstrated.

-30-

Learns English In 3
Years, Becomes Editor

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--A Lebanese student came to the University of Richmond here in 1956 unable to speak English. Three years later, he edited the campus literary magazine.

This accomplishment in language is being recognized at the Southern Baptist school by the planting of two cedars of Lebanon.

Jamal A. Sa'd, acting director of the Arab Information Center, Washington, was asked to present the trees in honor of the achievement of Abdullah Mina, now a senior at the university.

Mina is a member of the board of publications and president of a college historical society.

He learned English partly by underlining each word in the newspaper which he didn't know. "At first the whole newspaper was underlined," he chuckles. Mina plans to return to Lebanon, in the Near East, and enter that country's foreign service.

-30-

Outreaching Church
Chosen 1961 Theme

(9-25-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The theme of the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention session at St. Louis, Mo., will be "My Church . . . Reaching Out."

James E. Boyd of West Palm Beach, Fla., chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, announced also that the Scripture reference for the theme is found in Mark 1:38--"Let us go into the next towns . . . preach there also."

W. H. Souther, associate professor of church administration at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, will direct Convention music.

Tommy Lane, minister of music at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, will assist Souther. The Convention president--this year Ramsey Pollard of Memphis--appoints the music leader each year.

The Convention will open Tuesday night, May 23. Evangelist Billy Graham will preach the Convention sermon on opening night. The Convention will close with its night meeting Friday, May 26.

-30-

United Nations Okays
Convention Observers

(9-25-60)

NEW YORK--(BP)--United Nations will accredit two Southern Baptist leaders for sessions now going on here. They will be among what are called non-governmental organization observers.

They are Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary of the Convention's Christian Life Commission, and Gainer E. Bryan, Jr., Baltimore, editor of the Maryland Baptist.

Valentine is observer and Bryan alternate observer for Southern Baptists. The Christian Life Commission elected them in accordance with Convention instructions that it designate observers to United Nations sessions.

Valentine and Bryan both plan to attend the session during the weeks ahead. They will report back to Southern Baptists their observations and impressions of what happens in the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council, and other bodies.

-30-