

November 23, 1960

Arizona Children's Home Gets Start

WINSLOW, Ariz.--(BP)--Plans for opening a Baptist children's home in Phoenix were announced here during the annual session of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona.

The dedication was scheduled shortly after the convention. The home is located on property next door to convention-operated Grand Canyon College.

One building--costing about \$30,000--has been erected on the 5-acre site.

The convention was presented with a resolution on church-state separation and the recent election of John F. Kennedy as President of the United States. Since a messenger offered it late in the session, and since other messengers questioned if it was strongly-enough worded, it failed to carry.

Arizona Baptists adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$351,247 with 18 per cent going to the Southern Baptist Convention. The previous budget shared only 17 per cent with the S B C.

They re-elected Glen Crofts of Tucson as president and voted to meet Nov. 14-16, 1961, at Phoenix for the next session.

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Virginia Opposes Unrelated Business

(11-23-60)

BRISTOL, Va.--(BP)--Virginia Baptists are opposed to churches and denominational agencies participating "in business enterprises that are not directly church-related."

This position was taken in a pronouncement on religious liberty received by the Baptist General Association of Virginia in annual session here.

The report of the Virginia Baptist religious liberty committee, headed by Stewart B. Simms, of Richmond, discussed church-state issues involved in taxation of church property, Sunday laws, religious instruction in public education, and the use of public funds for church-related institutions.

Four reasons were given to support opposition to unrelated church business enterprises:

"First, it is a deviation from the everlasting important purpose for which the church was established, and to which its undivided thoughts and energies should be devoted.

"Second, that it may well get the church involved with unChristian persons in unscrupulous practices.

"Third, that it is taking unfair advantage of legitimate business enterprises of a like nature, and will inevitably result in damaging anti-clericalism.

"Fourth, that it will adversely affect the biblical practice of individual personal, liberal, cheerful, regular material stewardship for the support of kingdom enterprises."

Although Virginia Baptists did not arrive at a clear position on the taxation of church-owned properties and businesses, they did say that "there is a principle, an ideal, that towers beyond the material needs of economically-pressed cities and the materialistic losses that could be sustained by religious groups. This we must find, and to this we must hold."

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The committee encouraged further study and prayer "in an effort to know the course of Christian wisdom with regard to the taxation of all business profits earned by churches and religious groups."

On the matter of Sunday laws, establishing a day of worship, the Virginians declared that "Christians should need no support from the state in observing with reverence, thanksgiving, and public gatherings for worship and Bible study the first day of the week."

Pointing out that those who have advocated Sunday laws have said that they were doing so on other grounds than sectarian or religious considerations, the religious liberty committee said that, "We cannot escape the opinion that Sunday laws represent an effort to use the police power of the state to enforce a religious holiday and provide by law one day in each week for the worship of Almighty God."

The action of Virginia Baptists in regard to religious instruction in public education repeated positions taken in previous years. In Virginia, there is a program of Bible teaching in the public schools in some areas, but the Baptist denominational position in Virginia is opposed to the practice, although some Baptist churches co-operate in the program.

Urging the "Baptist people of Virginia to desist from support of teaching the Bible in public schools," the association said, "the teaching of the Bible as a religious subject in public school buildings and during school hours is a violation of the principle of church-state separation."

Virginia Baptists reiterated their position on the use of public funds for church-related institutions by recommending "that Baptist institutions and agencies secure needed loans from other than government sources." This action was based on the report of the religious liberty committee that said, "to accept a federal loan at a low rate of interest, and with long terms for repayment is, in effect, to accept a subsidy from the public treasury."

The committee in its report further warned about the possibilities of an increasingly intense campaign in the nation to secure federal funds for the support of parochial schools.

Pointing out other threats to separation of church and state, the committee named Baptist complacency in their convictions and practice on the matter, the spread of communism, the position of the Roman Catholic Church, and outcroppings of intolerance toward minority groups.

The committee urged Baptists to "take a careful look at our own behavior" and to use every honorable means to guard religious liberty. To encourage interest in this area the Training Union department and the religious liberty committee are jointly sponsoring a "religious liberty essay tournament" for young people.

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Jackson Selected
19th Time In Row

(11-23-60)

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Mississippi Baptist Convention has voted to meet at Jackson's First Baptist Church again next year for the 19th consecutive time and named Nov. 14-16 as the date.

The convention adopted, among others, a resolution registering opposition to the increasing activity of the National Guard and reserve units on Sunday.

The resolution registered with the governor, the adjutant general, and other officers at the policy-making level of these branches of national defense, the concern over this problem.

The convention voted to allow the four colleges to borrow up to 100 per cent of their capital needs allocation for the next five years.

The capital needs section was designated as a priority item in the state's Cooperative Program budget.

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Billy Graham Hints Membership Change **NOV 23 1960**

ASHEVILLE, N. C.--(BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham hinted here he may be moving his church letter.

He is presently a member of First Baptist Church in Dallas, which he joined in 1953 by transfer of membership from Curtis Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga.

Graham makes his home in Montreat, N. C., in the Blue Ridge Mountains, site of the Presbyterians' encampment and only a few miles from Ridgecrest, Southern Baptist assembly.

From time to time some of his evangelistic office routine has been carried on at Charlotte, N. C.

During an address to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina here, Graham noted his Dallas membership. Then he added, "I hope to remedy that situation and to take my stand with you North Carolina Baptists."

He did not indicate when he might move his membership nor to what church.

He has been a Texas member of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Transfer of church membership outside the state would end his membership on that board, at least until it became time to elect another North Carolina member.

Graham has been asked to preach the convention sermon to Southern Baptists who assemble in St. Louis next May for their 1961 session.

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Kentucky Advances Cooperative Plan

(11-23-60)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--A new plan for letting more people know how the Cooperative Program works has been advanced here.

Robert J. Hastings of Louisville, stewardship promotion secretary for Kentucky Baptists, reported the plan could reach every local association of churches in the state.

In his statement before the annual session of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky here, Hastings said he hoped to test the plan in at least one association in the early fall of 1961.

Success then would result in a more penetrating plan to reach the other local associations. The plan, he said, "would use the best promotion techniques consistent with Baptist policy and belief."

The Cooperative Program is a unified means through which Baptist churches may support denominational work in their state and throughout the nation and the world.

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Council Changes 1961 Site To Birmingham

(11-23-60)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Representatives to the Southern Baptist Missionary Education Council here voted to hold the 1961 meeting at Birmingham.

Selection of the new site followed a report that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary would be unable to serve as host to the group next Nov. 1-3 because students would be taking examinations. Earlier in the meeting at Bellevue Baptist Church, the council had voted to hold next year's meeting in New Orleans.

The council is concerned with giving guidance to the preparation of missiinary education materials for Southern Baptists.

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W. W. Hamilton, Former
Convention Head, Dies

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--Dr. W. W. Hamilton, 91, former president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and twice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Nov. 19 in Southern Baptist Hospital here.

He served as chaplain and then chaplain emeritus of the hospital.

Dr. Hamilton had been a patient in the hospital several times during the past few months and was admitted again shortly before his death.

The clergyman, educator, and author was president of New Orleans Seminary (then the Baptist Bible institute) from 1928-1942. He was credited with seeing the institution through the critical depression years.

He served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1941-42.

Funeral services were held Nov. 22 in New Orleans. Interment was in Metairie Cemetery here.

Dr. Hamilton is survived by two sons, W. W. Hamilton, Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church, Havelock, N. C., and Doyle R. Hamilton, office manager of St. Charles Ave. Baptist Church, New Orleans.