

June 21, 1961

**Quality, Not Quantity
Say Baptist Educators**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Baptists should strive for quality education and not attempt to educate all the Baptist students who decide to attend college.

This was the feeling of members of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission in their annual meeting here.

They took note of Baptists' refusal to accept federal grants to private schools for operations and buildings. They favored an intensive effort to enlist more support from Baptists themselves.

Support from within the denomination is needed to improve Baptist colleges, commissioners declared. They compared between Baptists' and tax-supported schools in the matter of college plant and their ability to care for all who apply.

The commission voted to change the name of its 10-times-a-year publication from Career News to College and Career effective with the new volume starting in October, 1961.

Theme for the ninth annual February, 1962 emphasis on Christian higher education was selected. It will be, "Your Future and the Baptist College." Feb. 18, 1962 will be "Baptist College Day" in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The commissioners reelected Edwin F. Perry of Louisville, chairman; Fred E. Neiger, Columbia, Mo., vice-chairman; and Hayward Highfill, Nashville, secretary.

Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, continues as executive secretary, top staff officer of the agency.

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Southern College Group
Elects J. M. Boswell

(6-21-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--J. M. Boswell is the new president of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Boswell, president of Cumberland College (Baptist), Williamsburg, Ky., was elected at the association's summer meeting here. He succeeds Evan A. Reiff, president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.

The new vice-president is A. Hope Owen, president of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex. Secretary-treasurer is H. I. Hester of Kansas City, Mo., vice-president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Southern Association represents presidents and deans of the 71 Southern Baptist-related seminaries, colleges and academies. It has no formal tie with the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Habla Espanol? Ja!
It's The Gospel Truth

FRANKFURT, W. Germany (BP)--An English-language Baptist church here has joined a German-language Baptist church in establishing a mission where the gospel will be preached in Spanish to migrant workers from Spain.

The English-language church, served by Pastor Herbert Lee Stout, ministers to Americans in Germany, chiefly servicemen and their dependents.

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Folks and Facts.....

(6-21-61)

.....Alabama Baptists plan to make low-cost group insurance available to the 2400 pastors of churches in the state. All members of the family may be included (children up to age 23) for a small additional cost. (BP)

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.....R. B. Culbreth resigned from pastorate of Miami Springs (Fla.) Baptist Church July 2 and will begin Aug. 13 as pastor at Metropolitan Baptist Church in the nation's capital. Culbreth was member from Florida on the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. (BP)

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Puerto Rico Baptists
To Form ABC State Unit

(6-21-61)

PORTLAND Ore. (BP)--Puerto Rican Baptists were encouraged by the General Council of the American Baptist Convention in session here to form a "state" convention.

The action followed a report of Oscar Rodriguez, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Puerto Rico, that the island now has 50 Baptist churches affiliated with the American Baptist Convention.

These churches have approximately 7,000 members and budgets totaling over \$300,000.

Rodriguez reported the Puerto Ricans probably will take action in February, 1962 to organize a state convention within the American Baptist Convention.

American Baptists have conducted work in the island for 62 years.

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Ordination Standards Set
By American Baptists

(6-21-61)

PORTLAND Ore. (BP)--Higher educational standards for ordination to the Baptist ministry are called for by an action of the American Baptist Convention here.

On recommendation of the Convention's Commission on the Ministry and its General Council four years of college and three years of seminary become the educational prerequisites "for recognition by the American Baptist Convention of candidates after January 1, 1965."

These standards had been adopted by the Commission in 1953 but had not been affirmed by the Convention until now.

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American Baptists Move
To Centralize Agencies

By W. C. Fields

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--A sometimes-stormy debate of several years standing came to a peaceful conclusion here as delegates to the 54th annual session of the American Baptist Convention voted unanimously to reorganize and centralize the work of the body's national agencies.

Since its founding in 1907 the Convention has functioned as a combination of separate boards and societies.

Under the newly approved organization the four general boards of the Convention will continue to be autonomous, except that at the point of policy-making and long-range planning they will accept the leadership of the General Council.

Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary for the General Council of the Convention, explained that most of the service and action divisions of the Convention's work would be directed by the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Board of Education and Publication, and the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

Under the new arrangement the boards will be classified as program agencies of the convention.

The 1960 meeting of the Convention at Rochester, N. Y., approved the construction of a new \$8½ million headquarters building at Valley Forge, Pa. It was announced here that the building will be fully occupied by the Spring of 1962, bringing together in one place national offices of the Convention which have been scattered among seven buildings in New York City and Philadelphia.

V. Carney Hargroves of Germantown, Pa., chairman of the Committee on Reorganization, explained that a half-dozen reorganization programs had been attempted by the convention since its founding in 1907.

Convention officials voiced the hope that this latest and most comprehensive plan would stabilize the work of the Convention and make it more efficient for many years to come.

The Convention has 1,600,000 members in 40 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. There are 6,200 churches affiliated with the Convention.

The delegates adopted a 1962 Unified Budget of \$10,800,000, essentially the same as the 1961 budget.

Eighteen missionaries were commissioned by the American Baptist Home Mission Society for posts as far apart as Kodiak, Alaska and Santa Ana, El Salvador.

The Convention adopted 21 resolutions re-affirming doctrinal views, expressing attitudes with regard to denominational work, taking stands on several current social and political problems.

Pointing to "our wider fellowship" the delegates went on record urging increased participation in the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and the Baptist World Alliance "in order to accomplish the aims and purposes which can be better realized through cooperation with other Christians than in isolation."

Race relations came in for a lengthy resolution which drew fire from some of the delegates. As passed, however, the statement called upon all American Baptists to work for desegregation in local neighborhoods, in church and school, in business establishments and everywhere. Freedom Riders and sit-in demonstrators were commended for "their stand, their courage and their patience under provocation."

President John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps was praised for its humanitarian aims.

Separation of church and state was described as "indispensable to our national policy."

Other resolutions advocated a strong United Nations, better physical and spiritual services for migratory agricultural laborers, and intelligent opposition to communism, (and after some debate on the matter) for the U. S. government to seek through the Organization of American States and other channels a reconciliation between the people of the United States and the people of Cuba.

Delegates chose as the new president of American Baptist Convention Warner R. Cole, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan.

A. Mesa, Arizona layman, G. Dewey Creasman, was elected first vice president.

Miss Pearl Rosser, president of the Baptist Missionary Training School, Chicago, Ill., was chosen second vice president.

A colorful Sunday evening ceremony of dedication set apart seven new missionaries for overseas service with the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies. This was the concluding feature of the Convention week.

Approximately 6,000 delegates and visitors participated in the Portland meeting.

The next session of the Convention will be in Philadelphia, May 23-27, 1962.

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Baptists' Faith Shown
By Sitting On Volcano

(6-21-61)

PORTLAND Ore. (BP)--Delegates to the American Baptist Convention here, at least part of the time, were sitting on a volcano--literally.

An extinct one, that is.

One of the entertainment features provided by Baptists in the Portland area for the visiting delegates was a salmon bake at Mt. Tabor Park, in the crater of an old volcano.

Indians from nearby reservations cooked salmon steaks over open pits for about 2,500 visitors.

In contrast to the symbolism of a meeting in a volcano crater, the Convention sessions--in spite of an agenda full of important business--were the most peaceful and calm meetings the body has had in years.

With about 6,000 delegates and visitors in attendance the American Baptist Convention is the largest convention scheduled to meet in Portland this year, according to the Chamber of Commerce. Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield, a Baptist, addressing the Convention indicated that this seems to be "The Year of The Baptists" for Portland, the City of Roses.

Meeting in the city simultaneously with the American Baptists were some 5,000 Negro Baptists attending the annual sessions of the National Baptist Sunday School and Training Union Congress.

A month earlier the annual meeting of the Conservative Baptist Convention was held in the city.

The Southern Baptist Convention has never met in Portland. The city's Convention Bureau and local Southern Baptist leaders, however, expressed a desire to invite the SBC annual meeting to Portland for some year in the future, possibly 1967. There are 23 Southern Baptist churches in the metropolitan area.

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Photos of American Baptists in session is being mailed to state Baptist papers.

June 21, 1961

Baptist Press Cutlines

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION drew 6,000 delegates and visitors to Portland, Ore., for the northern body's 54th annual session. The major business of the week was an extensive reorganization and centralization of the Convention's agencies. The 1962 meeting will be held in Philadelphia. (BP) Photo.