

# BAPTIST PRESS

## A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE

for Southern Baptists' Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, Annuity Board, Home Mission Board Division of Evangelism and Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE  
LLOYD WRIGHT, regional editor  
103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas  
Telephone: Office — Riverside 1-1996  
Residence — BLackburn 4-6221

10-09-61

### Texas Baptists Affirm Church-State Stand

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting here voiced repeatedly their convictions that Texas Baptists should take no part in helping to crumble the wall that separates church and state.

More than 5,000 Baptists from virtually every Baptist church in the state:

- (1) Adopted without debate or dissent a complex interpretation of the Texas Baptist policy on church-state separation;
- (2) Approved five recommendations from the convention's Christian Life Commission on Christian citizenship that included a strong church-state separation statement; and
- (3) Heard a major address on the subject by Glenn Archer of Washington, D.C., executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Convention messengers also voted unanimously to sponsor a vast five week evangelistic crusade in Japan April 28-May 31, 1963, and accepted a challenge to raise \$300,000 in "over and above" gifts to underwrite the crusade.

Evangelist Billy Graham is scheduled to participate in the crusade, at least one night and possibly for three days. Texas Baptist leaders said they will meet with Graham in hopes of getting a longer commitment for the crusade.

Southern Baptist Missionary W. H. "Dub" Jackson from Japan said "the crusade has unlimited possibilities to reach every person in Japan in five weeks with the message of Christ."

Jackson said that the crusade will begin with a revival in Tokyo, the world's largest city, spread to the five major population centers in Japan, and then mushroom into simultaneous revivals in 80-100 cities in Japan.

Evangelistic messages may be beamed on radio and television into nearly every home in Japan, and possibly into East Asia all of North Africa, and even beyond the Iron Curtain into Russia.

In other action, Texas Baptists adopted a record \$14,383,194 Cooperative Program budget, elected nearly 300 trustees and directors for 25 Baptist boards and institutions, and re-elected James H. Landes of Wichita Falls as convention president.

The complex church-state separation policy statement held that for Texas Baptist schools, hospitals and children's homes to accept government loans, grants or property at reduced rates violates the Baptist stand on the historic principle.

Not considered as a violation of the principle were loans or grants to individual college students; research grants in which the government contracts for the services of individuals; property made available to religious organizations at its actual value; and tax exemptions for church contributions.

In an effort to help provide the convention's schools with enough funds to meet building needs of the next decade, the church phase of a crusade to over subscribe a goal of \$28 million wa launched.

--more--

The convention adopted another resolution urging vigilance in keeping the Peace Corps free of church-state entanglements.

Recommendations from the Christian Life Commission urged Baptist dedication to church-state separation, not as a way of expressing bias against the Roman Catholic Church, but as a basic truth.

Another recommendation encouraged Baptists to "avoid using Communist tactics of hate, half-truth and slander," and to guard against becoming like those whom Baptists oppose.

In an address before the convention, Dallas pastor Herbert Howard suggested that the denomination change the name of the Cooperative Program "to what it really is---'world missions.'"

He said that local churches too often think of the Cooperative Program as just another item on the budget, "like the pastor's salary, to be held in check." By capitalizing on the name "world missions, which everyone wants to support," Southern Baptists could increase missions gifts, Howard said.

Alternate preacher John Rasco of Odessa, Tex., delivered the annual convention sermon, substituting for W. A. Criswell of Dallas' First Baptist Church who was ill with a virus.