

October 15, 1961

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You Can't Give It Away

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In a related action, General Board elected R. Tom Greene of Raleigh, director of retirement plans, to an associate's position in the stewardship department. Greene will be in charge of the educational fund-raising program.

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\$4-1/4 Million North  
Carolina Budget Goal

(10-15-61)

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The goal, being sent to the convention for final approval, includes an additional \$1,215,000 for the Christian Education Advance Program, a special fund-raising program through the churches for college support.

The Southern Baptist Convention share of the Cooperative Program goal stands at the same percentage as in 1961.

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Could Lose Rating

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After a long debate, General Board postponed action till its special meeting prior to the convention session in November.

Some board members saw the hospital proposal as "jumping the gun" on a new capital needs program which will be adopted next year.

In another decision on finances, General Board gave its okay to a 1962 Cooperative Program goal of \$3,375,000, an increase of \$25,000 over the current goal. The convention must give its approval yet.

The proportion of it going to the Southern Baptist Convention would remain the same it has been. The SBC share of the \$1.5 million current operations budget is 45 per cent. The proportion of the capital needs segment of \$1,219,000 is 40 per cent.

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Virginia Hikes Budget  
Proposed To \$3,533,000

(10-15-61)

RICHMOND (BP)--Virginia Baptists will operate under a \$3,533,000 budget in 1962, if the state association approves the recommendation of its General Board.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia would retain 64 per cent of this Cooperative Program income. The balance would go to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and worldwide work of its agencies.

The Cooperative Program goal is \$183,000 greater than for the present year.

Any receipts above the goal would go to pay off the debt on the new Virginia Baptist Building. Baptist offices expect to occupy it in January.

It was also reported to the General Board that James C. Meade, Norfolk pastor, has been called as associate secretary of state Baptist Brotherhood work. He succeeds J. C. Ballew, who moved to South Carolina. Meade will work primarily with Royal Ambassadors.

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Congress Left Behind  
50 Million-Word Record

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It took 28,122 pages and more than 50 million words to print the proceedings of Congress and the appendix of the Congressional Record for 1961.

There were 50,770 nominations, both civilian and military, presented to the Congress during the session.

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Armed Services Call  
21 Reserve Chaplains

ATLANTA (BP)--Twenty-one Southern Baptist pastors have been called to active duty as chaplains as a result of the federal government's recent move to strengthen its armed forces.

The announcement was made by George Cummins of Atlanta, Ga., director of the division of chaplaincy of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Seven of the 21 pastors are from Texas and six are from Kentucky. Six of those from Texas are members of the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard, and were previously reported by Baptist Press.

The others are from Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Virginia.

Cummins praised the men and churches for the spirit displayed in meeting this crisis. "They have shown faith, grace and wisdom," he said.

"Even with this increase of Southern Baptist quotas for active duty, we are fortunate to have available chaplains to meet them," he added. "Others will be coming to active duty in all branches of the military."

Southern Baptist chaplains called to active duty are the following:

From Alabama: Lt. Harry Kirkley of Bessemer;

From Louisiana: Capt. L. R. McCullin of St. Francisville and Capt. William R. Lawrence Jr. of Jonesboro;

From Kentucky: Lt. Col James C. Sherwood of Vine Grove; Maj. Hugh B. Goldsby of Lyndon; Capt. Jordon W. Holland Jr. of Ghent, 1st. Lt. Thomas M. Richardson of Henderson; Lt. Tommy A. Devenny of Louisville; and 1st. Lt. Franklin D. Holley of Beaver Dam;

From Mississippi: Capt. Paul H. Cranford of Bentonla and 1st. Lt. Robert E. Saunders of Forkville;

From South Carolina: Lt. Edwin J. Rowan III of Hartsville and Capt. William K. Bagnal Jr. of West Columbia;

From Texas: Lt. Col. Charles P. Pitts of Dallas; Maj. Irvin L. Whetsell of San Angelo; Capt. Robert L. Herring Jr. of Dallas; Capt. Claude B. Gooch of Vernon; Capt. J. P. Webb of Floresville; 1st. Lt. Willie F. Hunt of Mission, and 1st. Lt. O. I. Courtney Jr. of San Angelo.

From Virginia: Capt. John K. Harris of Arlington.

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With Buddhism As State Religion In Burma

By C. E. Bryant  
Editor, Baptist World

The constitutional amendment establishing Buddhism as the state religion of the Union of Burma was coupled with another amendment which grants other religions the right to exercise their faiths and to teach them.

Mrs. Louise Paw, acting general secretary of the Burma Baptist Convention and a vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance, wrote to Baptist World Alliance offices in Washington that the double amendment arrangement "has left us non-Buddhists very much on the status quo."

She explained however that "the psychological effect of Buddhism being the state religion is hard to gauge now. According to the letter of the law we have the protection and the right to freely practice our faiths."

"The Burman on the whole is a very tolerant person," she continued, "and it is our hope that we will continue to be blest with such statesmanship as we have had at this very crucial period."

The establishment of Buddhism as the state religion is the third amendment to the Burma constitution. It provides for the promotion, honor and protection of the Buddhist religion. A promotion bill adopted at the same time had given rise to much fear and anxiety from the adherents of other faiths, and the fourth amendment was passed to assure them of the continuance of freedom.

Mrs. Paw explained that even the Buddhists appeared to be happier after the fourth amendment was passed. Many Buddhists, she said, were against making Buddhism the state religion.

"Steps to promote the state religion do not put non-Buddhists to any hardship," she explained. The law provides that Buddhist scriptures will be preserved, edifices enshrining Buddha's relics will be rehabilitated, Buddhism will be taught in all state schools (but non-Buddhist children need not attend such classes if their parents object in writing), and Buddhism will become one of the optional subjects in the university. Christian faiths will remain free to teach the Bible in their mission schools.

It is still possible for non-Buddhists to be elected to office, Mrs. Paw wrote, but a Christian would find it difficult to hold office as head of state, for instance, in that many official duties involve the observance of Buddhist practices.

Baptist World Alliance officials recalled that the fourth amendment is in keeping with the spirit of a conversation between Burma Prime Minister U Nu and Theodore F. Adams of Richmond, Va., when he toured Asia in 1956 as president of the Alliance. Adams had asked the prime minister to preserve "the same freedom and liberty for all faiths in the future as has been the case in Burma in recent years." U Nu replied, "As long as my party and I are in power I can assure you that will be the case."

Adams has written the prime minister since passage of the state religion bill, reminding him of the 1956 conversation and saying:

"Now that Buddhism is recognized as the state religion, I am writing in behalf of my fellow Baptists and other Christians who share my concern to voice the hope that the full religious freedom for all faiths of which we spoke in 1956 will continue to be the priceless possession of all believers in Burma, whatever their faith or national origin may be."

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