

December 17, 1953

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPS 1955
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Executive Committee in its December meeting voted to recommend to the Southern Baptist Convention a Cooperative Program budget of \$9,200,000 for 1955. This is an increase of \$350,000 over the 1954 budget of \$8,850,000. If adopted by the Convention at Saint Louis, Mo., June 2-5, the budget will provide money for three different phases of work for the year 1955.

Operating Budget	\$6,100,000
Capital Needs Budget	3,000,000
Convention Operating Budget	100,000
TOTAL	\$ 9,200,000

The operating budget of \$6,100,000 is to be used in current operation of the nineteen institutions and agencies. The capital budget of \$3,000,000 will supply funds for building needs to twelve of the institutions and agencies. The Convention operating budget covers needs of the annual meeting of the Convention and the Executive Committee.

All of the \$350,000 increase is within the operating budget, with changes as follows:

	1954	1955	Increase
	Operating	Operating	
Foreign Mission Board	\$2,875,000	\$2,875,000	
Home Mission Board	710,000	710,000	
Relief and Annuity Board	500,000	500,000	
Southern Baptist Theol. Sem.	286,317	310,317	24,000
Southwestern Bapt. Theol. Sem.	286,317	360,317	74,000
New Orleans Bapt. Theol. Sem.	264,316	333,816	69,500
Golden Gate Bapt. Theol. Sem.	184,650	204,150	19,500
Southeastern Bapt. Theol. Sem.	190,900	235,400	44,500
Amer. Bapt. Theol. Sem.	59,000	60,000	1,000
Radio Commission	125,000	200,000	75,000
Carver School of Missions	57,500	61,500	4,000
Southern Baptist Hospital	40,000	40,000	
Baptist Brotherhood Commission	55,000	65,000	10,000
Public Affairs Committee	15,000	15,000	
Baptist World Alliance	25,000	30,000	5,000
Southern Baptist Foundation	15,000	25,000	10,000
Education Commission	22,000	32,000	10,000
Historical Commission	24,000	26,000	2,000
Christian Life Commission	15,000	17,000	2,000
TOTAL	\$5,750,000	6,100,500	350,000

No final agreement was reached on distribution of the 1955 \$3,000,000 capital budget.

(more)

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The Finance and Administrative Committees were instructed to make further recommendations to the Executive Committee in June after consultation with all institutions and agencies involved in the capital budget.

In the crowded two-day session the Executive Committee also;

Voted to close the Southern Baptist Convention in Saint Louis at noon on Saturday instead of continuing through Sunday as in previous years. This changes the dates from June 2-6 to June 2-5. Also heard an announcement of the Committee on Convention Arrangements that the practice of two sessions a day started in 1953 would be carried out in 1954.

Approved appointment of a special committee of seven, including representative from the Home Mission Board, the Woman's Missionary Union, and the Baptist Sunday School Board for considering the rapidly developing mission opportunities in the west.

Recognized a request of the Radio Commission to record all sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention at Saint Louis, June 2-5 with an understanding that a copy of the material is to be filed with the Historical Commission.

Continued consideration of a request of the Carver School of Missions for additional operating funds. Also, further consideration of the Bible institute possibilities.

Approved 111 Opdyke scholarship awards through colleges and academies. The Opdyke fund is an endowment to provide limited scholarship.

Designated John Williams, manager, Book Store Department, Baptist Sunday School Board to be in charge of allocating space for exhibits.

Approved settlement of the Selma A. Johnson estate in Florida that gives the Executive Committee \$3,500 for its work.

Granted the Baptist Student Department \$1,000 for use in promotion of the Youth Night Program at the Southern Baptist Convention. The money is to come from the Convention operating budget, but is to be reimbursed from an offering to be taken the night of the meeting. All in excess of the \$1,000 collected will go into the Convention operating budget.

Voted to recommend to the Convention adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws to be known as Bylaw XXI. "The charters of all agencies shall provide that the trustees or directors of such agencies be elected by the Convention, and that their charters may not be further amended without prior consent of the Convention."

Also if proposed Bylaw XXI is adopted, then offer to the Convention a resolution directing Executive Committee to withhold any and all Cooperative Program funds if any institution fails to comply within a twelve month period.

Referred a study of the Braille Evangel, Fort Worth, Tex., to the Baptist Sunday School Board for study.

Voted three measures relating to Baptist World Alliance that meets in London in 1955. (1) That Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board be asked to represent the Southern Baptist Convention in working out any musical representation, (2) that an exhibit representing all the agencies of the Convention be planned for the above, (3) that Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee represent the Executive Committee in a tour of mission fields and at the Baptist World Alliance.

Asked Joe W. Burton to serve as senior secretary in preparation for the Convention at Saint Louis in June.

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BOARD VOTES \$998,475
DENOMINATIONAL CONTRIBUTION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board authorized expenditures of \$998,475 for denominational work in its December meeting. The funds will be used for promotion of Sunday school, training union, church music and student work in Southern Baptist Convention states. The money also will be used for contributions to work of other Convention agencies.

The program calls for \$225,000 for local building improvements, \$250,000 for the Baptist assembly at Glorieta, N. M. and \$150,000 for the assembly at Ridgecrest, N. C.

Local construction, expected to start immediately, will include finishing the seventh floor of the administration building of the Board's buildings in Nashville. Other work in that building will include remodeling of space formerly occupied by the book store for the personnel department; provision of lunchroom equipment; installing of new lighting on the first and second floors, and completing the loading dock in back of the building.

A camp will be built to care for 80 girls for two 5-week sessions starting in the summer of 1955 at Ridgecrest. Plans call for construction of 10 cabins, a large dining hall, a swimming pool, an outdoor chapel, an administration building and a counselors' lounge.

Property improvements are planned for Glorieta. These include addition of conference rooms and a new housing unit.

The Board also adopted a new set of by-laws.

During a luncheon meeting of Southern Baptist leaders at the ~~Hermitage Hotel~~ in Nashville, the Board presented a television set to Miss Ethel Allen. She has been secretary to the Board's executive secretary-treasurer since April 1, 1908, and will retire January 1.

She served as secretary to Dr. James M. Frost, Dr. I. J. Van Ness, Dr. T. L. Holcomb, and Dr. James L. Sullivan.

Dr. Holcomb paid tribute to Miss Allen. He said her work record was unusual in length and extent of service, extra service performed, and health.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALERT
TO SOCIAL SECURITY PROBLEM

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--At its December meeting the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted that any Social Security legislation extending coverage to ministers should call for a contract between the government and individuals without involving the churches.

The Committee recommendations were as follows:

(1) That the Executive Committee inaugurate at once a program of information, through The Baptist Program and the denominational press, concerning the proposed Social Security program and our denominational retirement program.

(2) This body take necessary action to secure for our people representation at the public hearings before Congressional committees, Washington, D. C., whenever such hearings are held. Many of the major denominations of America will be represented there through the National Council of Churches of Christ, which body does not represent Southern Baptists. It is our conviction request should be made, in the light of all the facts, for a coverage bill least objectionable to our people and presenting fewer complications in the future. It should be a bill calling for a Social Security contract between the federal government and the individual, without in any sense involving the churches.

(3) Remind our entire constituency that the Relief and Annuity Board is the denominational agency in the field of protective plans, retirement and otherwise, urging that, in every case where Social Security coverage is secured for our denominational servants, it be in addition to that offered by the Relief and Annuity Board, never as a substitute for that protection.

BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS
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THE PASTOR'S SHRINKING SALARY BY: W. G. Stracener

You may be a party to having reduced your pastor's pay without having even realized that it has been reduced. Oh, you are not paying him fewer dollars, but if there have not been sizeable increases in recent years then the purchasing power of his salary has been definitely cut.

According to a recent survey, the findings of which were released by Dr. Benson Y. Landis in the 1953 Yearbook of American Churches, "Not only have Protestant ministers been unable to keep up with rising living costs, but in terms of purchasing power, they were nearly 13 per cent worse off than twelve years ago." The U. S. Government has released figures which indicate that during the same period the incomes of employees in manufacturing plants went up, in purchasing power 42 per cent; in service trades 33 per cent; and for the average government employee 24.9 per cent.

The study dealt specifically with three denominations whose figures were complete, Congregational Christian, United Presbyterian, and Protestant Episcopal. But such figures as we have indicate that the average Southern Baptist pastor rated even lower in annual income than these groups studied. Hence, they have felt the pinch even more. Our Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information of the Sunday School Board reports that Southern Baptist pastors received an average salary of \$2,498 in 1952, an increase of some 5.3 per cent over 1951. Pastors of part-time churches averaged considerably less.

Numbers of our churches have been alert to rising costs and have adjusted their pastor's and other employees' salaries accordingly. It is perfectly obvious, however, that the majority have not raised such salaries sufficiently to keep pace either with increased living costs or with the average increased income of the church membership being served.

Worthy pastors are not in the service for the size of the pay, but we must remember that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." No self-respecting church will want to penalize an employee because he happens to be a God-called man.

The church which has not already made the adequate adjustments in its pastor's salary should claim at once the blessing that will come from such concern for Christ's under-shepherd.

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Released by BAPTIST PRESS
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WITHOUT LITERATURE OUR BAPTIST PROGRAM
WOULD BE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED

BY: J. Marse Grant

New York City has just experienced a crippling newspaper strike that left its imprint on the citizens of the world's largest city. As we read about the strike, we wondered what would happen if our Baptist papers and magazines ceased publication for several weeks--or months?

What if there were no Sunday school quarterlies, or Training Union magazines, or WMU periodicals, or state Baptist papers? Some people would scarcely miss them, we must admit. This is pathetic, but true. Still others would not be handicapped too much. They are in a group which can take or leave our Christian literature. But we like to think that the majority of Baptists would be lost without publications to help them in the kingdom's work.

How would pastors keep up with pastoral changes without the state paper to keep them posted each week? Training Union and WMU programs would have to be pulled out of thin air without the program helps. Sunday school teachers would have to dig deeply to get up a good lesson without the assistance of our good quarterlies--and pupils would be at an even greater disadvantage.

If there's a moral to this little piece, it's this: Don't wait until your publications are taken away to appreciate them. Like Edward R. Murrow, famed CBS newscaster, said during the New York strike, "A newspaper is like your youth--never appreciated until it's gone." Read your Baptist literature regularly and be thankful our great Baptist presses are turning out such a never-ending flow of attractive reading material that keeps us informed and united.

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J. Marse Grant is editor of Charity and Children, Thomasville, N.C.