

November 19, 1961

Angola, Berlin, Bomb
Testing Get Mention

LONDON (BP)--Resolutions censuring Portugal for its policies in Angola and calling for speedy negotiations on Berlin were among actions taken by the Council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland at its meeting here.

The council also called for the immediate cessation of nuclear tests. It adopted a recommendation encouraging the acceptance of Jamaicans in British churches rather than setting up separate congregations for them.

"The Baptist Union Council expresses continued and deep concern at events in Angola and is convinced that only by a radical change of policy will the Portuguese authorities be able to meet the just demands of the Africans," stated the first resolution.

It calls upon (the British) government "to make clear to the Portuguese government that no military or material aid will be given while conditions remain as they are."

The resolution on Berlin and nuclear tests begins by "acknowledging obedience to Jesus Christ, as Head of the Church, and believing that renewal of faith in God and reconciliation among men is essential to the preservation of mankind." After calling for negotiations on Berlin and "complete renunciation of nuclear tests by all nations and a resumption of disarmament talks," it pleads for "continued support of the United Nations Organization."

The resolution about Jamaicans grew out of a report by M. E. W. Sawyers of Jamaica, who has been in Britain six months making a survey of conditions among Jamaicans there, particularly in relation to the churches. A recommendation by Sawyers was adopted by the council that "separate congregations of West Indians should be discouraged as in the eyes of all it will appear as if the church is initiating segregation."

"Integration is the long and harder way but will, in my opinion, prove to be the only way," Sawyers said. He emphasized the importance of the decision for integration because it would put Baptists in Britain on record as opposed to having separate churches on a color basis.

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Tennessee Continues
Integration Policy

(11-19-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Tennessee Baptist Convention here adopted a record Cooperative Program budget of \$3.7 million, elected E. Warren Rust of Cleveland as president and continued its practice on integration of Baptist institutions.

Messengers picked Gatlinburg for the 1962 convention Nov. 13-15.

Held at Memphis' First Baptist Church, the convention session was one of the quietest in recent years.

The Cooperative Program budget will follow the usual division of one-third to Southern Baptist Convention causes and two-thirds for state missions.

Efforts to change the Executive Board representation were decisively voted down, 683 to 83. Currently, board membership is divided according to geographical area, 25 members from each of the three grand divisions of the state--east, middle, west.

The proposed constitutional change would have given each of the 67 associations one member, with the other 28 elected at large. Membership in cooperating associ-

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ations ranges from 800 in one to Shelby's (Memphis) more than 99,000.

The new budget is \$200,000 more than the 1961 Cooperative Program income.

The convention adopted progress reports on the integration of its schools and hospitals, reaffirming the convention's practice of leaving policy to the boards of the institutions involved.

The Christian Service Committee and Education Committee stated that integration policy of the hospitals and schools reflects the attitude of the churches in their local communities as well as in Tennessee. It recognizes the socially-and culturally-rooted problems in the communities, the reports said.

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Maryland Voice Vote
Opposes Nuclear Test

(11-19-61)

BALTIMORE (BP)--Baptist Convention of Maryland, by a voice vote here, approved a resolution opposing atmospheric testing of nuclear bombs. The resolution, approved over several objections, also opposed their use in warfare.

The convention voted other resolutions on world peace, race relations, government aid to non-public schools and improvement of standards among migrant workers.

It commended by name two Maryland state legislators who voted against a bill to provide public school bus transportation to students of private and parochial schools.

Robert F. Woodward, pastor of First Baptist Church, Frederick, Md., was elected new convention president.

The convention approved plans for securing enlarged facilities for its state Baptist staff offices in Baltimore. It adopted a Cooperative Program budget goal for 1962 of \$510,000. The 40 per cent allocation to Southern Baptist Convention was passed.

It expressed concern over the apparently serious condition of Mrs. Roy D. Gresham of Baltimore, wife of the convention's executive secretary. She recently underwent two major operations.

Action on current world issues came on resolutions presented by the Christian Life and Resolutions Committees.

The Christian life report, adopted, called on Maryland Baptists to work for peace "and the things that make for peace."

Maryland Baptists were urged in this report to oppose communism and colonialism, to support United Nations, to work for an end to racial discrimination and to support efforts of the United States government to build a peaceful world.

"Baptists," the convention added, "are deeply concerned over separation of church and state as the basic means of guaranteeing religious liberty."

It called for support of public schools, opposition to use of public funds for private and parochial schools and support of candidates for public office who adhere to this principle.

The convention's 1962 place and date are Frederick, Nov. 12-14.

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Kentucky Says State
Shouldn't Tax Church

DANVILLE, Ky. (BP)--In their first session as a "convention," Kentucky Baptists spoke out against the state applying its 3 per cent sales tax to churches.

Messengers told their Executive Board to convey its opposition to the governor and to the state department of revenue. If no relief is found there, the board is to bring the matter to attention of the state legislature, convening in January.

The resolution said since educational institutions and certain charitable agencies are state sales tax-exempt, churches ought also to be.

The convention refused to take a position on the controversial sales tax itself, and spoke only in opposition to its being applied to churches. (The sales tax itself is a current political issue in the state.)

Messengers noted, in their opinion, collection of the tax from churches violates the separation of church and state. Taxes are collected from purchases within Kentucky as well as on church literature bought from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

On a different church-state issue, the new Kentucky Baptist Convention sent off for a year's study a proposal that its colleges and hospitals not be authorized to borrow money from government lending sources.

Robert Brewer, Perryville, Ky., minister, brought the issue from the floor. What he asked for would have essentially been that voted earlier by Texas Baptists applying to their state Baptist schools and hospitals.

The Cooperative Program budget, adopted, for the coming year is the same as this year's--\$2.5 million. Sixty-five per cent remains in Kentucky, the rest going to agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The state body, since its founding, has been known as the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. Messengers this year changed it to Kentucky Baptist Convention, "in keeping with the names used by other state Baptist groups."

V. C. Kruschwitz, Elizabethtown minister, was reelected to head the state group. He, in effect, thus became its last moderator (the term applying to the general association post) and its first president (the new convention term).

W. C. Boone, now of Jackson, Tenn., preached the annual sermon here. It was an honor given him as he retired from the post of general secretary of the general association.

His successor, Harold G. Sanders of Middletown, was asked to preach the convention sermon next year at Owensboro. The dates are Nov. 13-15. The place for 1963 also was picked--Lexington.

Boone received an appreciation gift of \$5000 from income on investments made by the Kentucky General Board.

The convention reaffirmed the general association's precedent-setting 1956 stand that women may be enroled as messengers to the annual meeting and may deliver reports to the group. This year, as usual, even the Woman's Missionary Union report was presented by a man. Since the ¹⁹⁵⁴1955 decision, a number of women have enroled as messengers, however.

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Oregon-Washington Sets
Special Election Meet

(11-19-61)

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington called special session here for Dec. 3 to consider the nomination of a new executive secretary.

Convention election is required in Oregon-Washington. Nomination comes from the Executive Board.

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Name of the candidate was not announced. The person elected will succeed R. E. Milam of Portland, who remains with the convention staff in another capacity.

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South Carolina Copes
With College Issues

(11-19-61)

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--South Carolina Baptists ran overtime here coping with two issues on their Baptist colleges--fraternities and racial segregation.

The convention took a fresh whack on its old whipping boy, the social fraternity question. It voted overwhelmingly not to instruct the schools to lower racial barriers.

By a vote of 613 to 284, trustees of all state Baptist colleges were directed to amend their charters in order to ban student membership in Greek-letter societies, on- or off-campus.

A supporter of Furman University here predicted the convention's action on the fraternity issue would hobble its now-bright future by stifling the interest of major foundations.

To which a veteran pastor replied the prayers and support of the pastors was worth more to Furman than all the money Ford and Duke (Foundations) might give. If fraternities offend even 30 per cent of the pastors, they should go, he said.

A tobacco-belt pastor challenged the South Carolina record registration of messengers to desegregate their colleges. He moved that:

"Since we are concerned with setting a pattern of behavior that is fully Christian and deeply spiritual, I move that our institutions begin accepting applications from qualified students irrespective of race or color."

There were several seconds to the motion. Despite this, only a fair sprinkling of voices was heard when the motion went down resoundingly.

Later, the convention accepted as information its Christian Life Commission's report. The commission said ignoring racial tensions amounts to putting one's head in the sand.

The convention adopted a budget of \$3,375,000 through the Cooperative Program. The Southern Baptist Convention share of the \$1.5 million operating budget remains at 45 per cent.

The convention also embarked on a prohibition campaign, asking a \$5000 war chest be provided to whip up support for a statewide referendum on sale of liquor, beer and wine. It was an effort to make the state "bone dry."

General Board of the convention was asked to find the necessary \$5000.

The 1962 place and time are Columbia, Nov. 13-15.

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Virginia Follows
Traditional Pattern

(11-19-61)

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)--The 1961 report of the Religious Liberty Committee of the Baptist General Association of Virginia dealt with four topics: (1) taxation of church properties; (2) Sunday observance laws; (3) teaching Bible in public schools, and (4) the use of public monies by private institutions.

The committee, whose report was adopted here, held to the traditional arrangement of "benevolent relations between church and state" and to the classification of churches and church property as nonprofit institutions. It said church-owned property for worship or promotion of a religious program, not used commercially, should not be taxed.

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Such property used for material gain, regardless of how the income is gained, should be taxed.

Recognizing the United States Supreme Court rulings upholding "blue laws" as being for the "health and welfare of the nation," the committee said enforcement of such laws works a hardship on certain minority groups because of their religious practices.

"This being true," it stated, "we concur with the twenty-one states which already have special legislation safeguarding the religious rights of these minorities."

The committee clearly stated its position that "religious education is the task of the home, the church and church-related private schools." It opposed the program of the Virginia Council of Churches for teaching Bible in the public schools, pointing out that religious instruction was offered in 32 counties at the beginning of the 1960-61 school session.

The committee also opposed the use of public funds for private institutions. It pointed out several areas of concern: Loans from public funds to private and parochial schools, surplus government foods and property, proposed tax exemption for parents of children attending private and parochial schools, individual grants to children attending such schools, use of sectarian agencies by the Peace Corps and the proposed program of federal aid to education.

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Social Issues Faced
By Virginia Baptists

(11-19-61)

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)--Virginia Baptists said that boards of trustees and not the general association should determine social practices on their college campuses.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia, meeting in annual session here, adopted the report of the Committee on Social Practices in Virginia Baptist Schools and Institutions, dealing with dancing on the Baptist college campuses.

The committee was created following a request in the 1960 meeting that the association express its disapproval of dancing on the Baptist college campuses. Trustees of the institutions where dancing is practiced would be asked to comply with wishes of the association.

The report said that the "social practices in our educational institutions, like all matters of conduct and matters dealing with educational standards, are and should remain the responsibility of the boards of trustees and administrative officers of the respective institutions." It further said the Baptist General Association is not the proper forum for dealing with this or similar administrative matters.

The association adopted three resolutions addressed to the General Assembly of Virginia on liquor problems in the state.

The resolutions petitioned the legislative body to:

1. Provide increased funds to "expand the services of the division of alcohol and rehabilitation of the State Health Department through the construction of a hospital and clinic facility with one of the state medical schools;"
2. Enact an "implied consent" law so that when a person is granted a driver's license he is also consenting to a chemical test for intoxication;
3. Defeat any and all proposals to legalize "liquor-by-the-drink."

The association adopted a resolution of the Committee on Constitutional Changes allowing up to 30 per cent non-Baptist trustees of Virginia Baptist schools and colleges. The resolution stated that "it is the policy of the Baptist General Association of Virginia that at least 70 per cent of the trustees of Virginia Baptist schools and colleges shall be at all times Baptists."

Also dealing with the trustees of Baptist institutions and agencies, the association defeated an effort to demand compulsory rotation of trustees. The resolution that was adopted recommended that Virginia Baptist institutions and agencies "seek

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earnestly to consider the advantages of bringing new trustees into membership of the various boards."

The report of the Pastor-Church Relations Committee, adopted by the association, recommended the publication of a tract on improving the pastor-church relationships. It also recommended pilot studies in two or three district associations, and the continuation of this special committee for another year.

The association approved the report of the Christian Life Committee which recommended study of communism as an "ideological disease" in order to recognize it, expose it and guide others away from it. It requested the denomination to publish a study course book to inform Christian people of the facts of communist philosophy.

The report also dealt with race realtions, peace and the Christian approach to sex morality.

The Cooperative Program budget adopted by the association for 1962 is \$3,533,000. Thirty-six per cent of this will go to Southern Baptist Convention projects, with the rest staying in Virginia.

Messengers elected R. P. Downey, pastor of Salem (Va.) Baptist Church, as the new president.

The 1962 session of the association is set for Nov. 6-8, at Virginia Beach. Alexandria was selected as 1963 site.

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New Mexico Launches
Its Jubilee Year

(11-19-61)

FARMINGTON, N. M. (BP)--Baptist Convention of New Mexico launched its jubilee or 50th year here, culminating in the 1962 session of the convention at Roswell, Nov. 13-15.

A road-closing blizzard which swept southern New Mexico failed to affect the 1961 session at Farmington, in extreme northern part of the state near Colorado. Attendance of 400 was reported.

Most messengers arrived before the snowstorm struck. By time of the convention's end, the blizzard was over and roads had been cleared for homeward-bound traffic. Farmington itself escaped the storm.

The 1961 session adopted two resolutions:

1. "That we as Baptists maintain a united front in rejecting federal funds or any kind of tax money for our institutions whether these funds be loans or grants.
2. "That we reaffirm our faith in the Southern Baptist program and institutions and pledge our support to state and conventionwide leaders."

It adopted a 1962 Cooperative Program goal of \$545,000 with one-fourth going to worldwide objectives through the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers honored two retiring staff members of the convention. They are Miss Eva R. Inlow of Albuquerque, after 25 years as executive secretary of state Woman's Missionary Union, and W. J. Lites, also of Albuquerque, after 16 years as state Sunday school secretary.

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