

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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

December 4, 1961

November Monthly News Wrapup

State Conventions Laud
Church-State Separation

By Jim Newton
Baptist Press Staff Writer

Twenty-four state Baptist conventions staged their annual meetings during November, and most of them in some form or another approved the principle of church-state separation.

But just what did they mean by "the principle of church-state separation?" Ask a messenger from each of the 24 states, and you would probably get 24 different answers.

Texas Baptists put into writing their interpretations of the elusive principle. Meeting in Austin, Tex., the convention adopted a 10-page comprehensive statement banning Baptist acceptance of government grants, loans, or property at reduced rates.

Virginia Baptists also adopted a comprehensive report, recommended from their Religious Liberty Committee.

Messengers to the Oklahoma Baptist Convention in Tulsa elected a committee to make a depth study of their church-state beliefs. Kentucky Baptists referred to a committee for further study a recommendation that their institutions reject government loans.

Meanwhile Mississippi and Georgia Baptists approved requests from five of their institutions for government loans totaling \$2.6 million. Some did it reluctantly with a feeling of guilt---others felt no qualms about borrowing from the government on a long-term basis at low interest rates.

The 24 conventions adopted budgets totaling more than \$54.6 million. Texas Baptists adopted the biggest single budget of the group, a whopping \$14.3 million.

While the state groups were adopting record budgets, the Southern Baptist Convention reported that gifts to the Cooperative Program continued to lag.

A tabulation for the first ten months of the year showed total gifts of \$14.4 million. While Southern Baptist convention agencies are assured their full share of the denomination's \$13.9 million operating budget, it is "doubtful" that enough will come in during the rest of the year to meet needs of \$4.5 million in capital funds.

An analysis of per-capita giving for 47 major denominations by the National Council of Churches ranked Southern Baptists as 40th on the list. The average Baptist gave \$55.68 in 1960, based on 8.6 million members. Highest ranking of all was the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern).

--more--

In addition to the separation of church and state issue, a host of conventions were concerned about liquor, gambling and crime problems in their states.

Mississippi Baptists, who live in the nation's only "bone dry" state, asked their governor to enforce liquor laws and veto any effort to legalize liquor sales. South Carolina Baptists asked for \$5,000 to conduct a campaign to make the state "bone dry."

Arizona Baptists thanked their governor for his stand against liquor and narcotics, and Arkansas urged state public officers to stamp out crime.

In Louisiana, meanwhile, a speaker at the state Brotherhood convention, J. D. Grey of New Orleans, chided Gov. Jimmie Davis for not acting against gambling and corruption, calling the governor, "the shame of Louisiana Baptists."

Messengers to the Tennessee and North Carolina conventions urged continued efforts to desegregate their institutions, while Maryland and Texas adopted resolutions deploring racial discrimination.

South Carolina convention messengers instructed trustees of Baptist colleges there to ban student membership in fraternities and societies. Virginia Baptists, however, said that the trustees of each institution, not the state Baptist group, should have the final say on campus social questions--including dancing.

Alabama Baptists granted a charter for a new college in Mobile, and neighboring state Florida begged an existing Baptist college--Stetson University--to allow the convention to elect trustees and improve relationships between the denomination and the college.

Baptists in the District of Columbia, Arizona, Virginia and Texas passed resolutions proposing an intensive study of Communism as the best method of fighting it.

Oklahoma and Indiana conventions adopted resolutions favoring blue laws and Sunday closing of non-essential businesses.

Ohio, one of the denomination's smaller conventions, announced that it would surpass goals for establishing new churches and missions in the 30,000 Movement, and the Michigan convention, composed of 130 churches, set a goal of establishing 114 new missions next year.

Two of the state bodies, Arizona and Kentucky, changed their names. Arizona adds "Southern" to its name, becoming the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. New name for the former General Association of Baptists in Kentucky is "Kentucky Baptist Convention."

In its annual session, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta budgeted \$250,000 to support the denomination's work in Cuba, and pledged intensified efforts to help resettle more than 100,000 Latin Americans who have fled from Cuba to America.

In other action, the Home Mission Board decided to drop its special loans for church sites and buildings in some of the nation's biggest cities. The "Big Cities Program" was dropped because of a half-million cut in the Home Missions budget.

Other states holding their annual Baptist conventions during November included California, Hawaii, Illinois and New Mexico.

--30--

Folks and facts.....

(12-4-61)

.....Baylor University in Waco, Tex., has named Lyn Raney, a Houston public relations man, as assistant coordinator of public relations. Raney, a Baylor graduate, served with the public relations staff of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. before coming to Baylor. He is also a former newsman for the Waco News-Tribune and the Temple Daily Telegram. (BP)

--30--

Cardinal Says Opposing
Protestants "Expected"

DALLAS (BP)--Action against Protestant missionaries can sometimes be expected in countries where Roman Catholicism is dominant, the foremost Cardinal from the Vatican said here.

Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, who ranks next to Pope John XXIII, expressed the view in a press conference while in Dallas for the first pontifical mass ever held here by a Catholic leader from the Vatican.

A newsman asked the Cardinal about protests of Roman Catholic abuse of evangelical missions in such countries as Spain and Italy raised during the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Austin.

The Cardinal, secretary of state for the Vatican, replied that the Catholic church did not wish to fight those who think differently from them and seek to promote truth.

However, he added, "Suppose you go into an all-Catholic city. Suppose one Protestant comes and disturbs this traditional atmosphere. Religion is the right of any man. But man sometimes abuses this right toward others."

One of the complaints raised during the Texas Baptist Convention was part of an address by Glenn Archer, executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Archer said, "Spain, the beneficiary of foreign aid, has closed 22 churches. Italy, who without our aid might have been in the Communist camp now, has denied permission to preach to nine of our evangelical leaders in Rome. I saw in Rome at a Southern Baptist mission windows broken by stones thrown by 'fellow Christians.'"

Archer had recently returned from a world tour.

--30--

Church Overpledges
World Record Budget

(12-4-61)

DALLAS (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Dallas has oversubscribed a record \$1,218,600 church budget, called by its pastor "the largest of any church in the history of Christendom."

During a 1962 stewardship campaign, members of the world's largest Southern Baptist Church signed pledges exceeding the record budget by \$15,210.

Of the total church budget, \$502,045 will go to world missions causes through the church's denominational, missions and benevolent program. A minimum of \$192,000 will go to the Cooperative Program.

--30--

Bruce Named Executive
For Houston College

(12-4-61)

HOUSTON (BP)--Trustees of the proposed Houston Baptist College here named H. D. Bruce, retired president of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, T x., as temporary executive officer until the Baptist school can find a president.

Bruce will help plan the curriculum, plan construction of major buildings, and coordinate an entire program of preparation for opening the Baptist liberal arts college here in the fall of 1963.

The unexpected move was interpreted by some Baptist leaders as an effort to keep from further delaying the college's scheduled opening.

A decision by Ralph Phelps to remain as president of Ouachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia, Ark., after announcing that he would accept the presidency

--more--

of the Houston college might have delayed the school's opening, had not Bruce been named to assume temporary executive duties, observers said.

Bruce served as president of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall for more than 18 years before retiring in September, 1960. He was at that time named President Emeritus of East Texas Baptist College.

He is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; Mercer University in Macon, Ga.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and holds honorary doctorates from East Texas Baptist College and Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex.

Wm. E. Denham Jr., chairman of the Houston Baptist College's Board of Trustees, said that the college feels fortunate in securing Bruce because of his wide experience and sympathetic interest in the efforts to establish a Baptist college in the Houston area.

--30--

SBC Radio-TV Commission
To Produce 2 New Programs

(12-4-61)

MINERAL WELLS, Tex. (BP)--Plans for the production of two new radio programs were approved by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission during the group's semi-annual meeting here.

The Radio and Television Commission, located in Fort Worth, will begin production in 1962 of a package of segmented program portions in one to two minute features, and will also begin production of a modified worship service in Chinese.

The first program to be called "Patterns", will be made available to radio stations throughout the nation for use on a weekly basis or for use throughout the day as the stations desire. Each program package will include 20 features on food, beauty, music, art, sports, etc., and 10 inspirational features.

Music for the Chinese worship service will be provided by the Hong Kong Baptist College Choir, and by Chinese students in this country.

Also approved by the commission were plans for an Easter television film using background photography from the Holy Land, and sequences of the life-size wax figures of the disciples participating in "The Last Supper" depicted in the famed painting by Leonardo de Vinci.

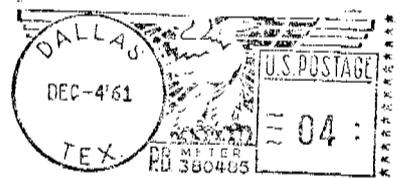
A television film about Baptist churches in Tarrant County (Fort Worth) will be produced by the National Broadcasting Co. and the Radio-TV Commission to be aired on NBC-TV's "Frontiers of Faith," Feb. 4, 1962, said Roy Bacus, general manager of WBAP-TV in Fort Worth.

Twenty-six commission members from 18 states attended the two-day meeting at Seybold Guest Ranch near Mineral Wells.

--30--

BAPTIST PRESS

103 BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS



FIRST CLASS

Mr. Theo Sommerkamp
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville 3, Tennessee

A CO-OPERATIVE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE