

June 7, 1959

3 Building Projects Face Colorado Board

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--Provisions for a Baptist college, a state Baptist office building, and a decade of new church construction were considered at the meeting here of the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Colorado.

Recommendations in all three areas will be made this fall to the annual session of the convention.

The executive board adopted conditions which must be followed in the establishment of a Baptist college serving the six-state area which includes also Wyoming, the Dakotas, Montana, and Western Nebraska.

It appointed a committee of three to make plans for a Baptist state office building here, and it approved plans for a bond issue to aid in new church construction.

All of the actions of the executive board are subject to approval of the convention at its annual session.

Conditions under which a Baptist four-year college may be established are these:

1. There must be \$250,000 cash on hand and \$250,000 in "good pledges."
2. There must be a site of at least 80 acres available.

3. After the convention votes for a college, a year must be spent in setting up the institution---which would include selecting its administrative staff and faculty and planning an adequate library. Advice of the University of Colorado at Boulder would be followed so that accreditation could be sought.

State Baptist leaders predicted establishment of a college in three to five years.

The convention board hopes within the next year to build a \$250,000 to \$300,000 office building with space for its Baptist workers as well as rental office space. Income from rentals would be used to meet debt payments. The payment would be such that the debt would be paid off in 10 years.

A bond issue of up to \$10 million was approved, which the board said "will meet church building needs in the convention's Western states area for 10 to 15 years."

The bond program provides that whenever the convention assists a church financially a building project, the convention receives first mortgage to the property. In addition, weekly deposits must be made by the church to the bank. A fourth of the amount involved must be secured by personal notes.

The church sells as many of the bonds, generally due to mature in 10 years, as possible and the convention helps sell the balance.

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Arizona Says Progress Good On College Goal

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona learned that "substantial progress" has been made toward a goal for its college here.

If Arizona Baptists raise \$50,000 for their Grand Canyon College and affiliated churches win 3583 persons to Christ by July 1, Mr. and Mrs. William Fleming of Fort Worth, Tex., have announced they will contribute \$100,000 to the college for buildings.

Pledges and contributions thus far to the convention's \$50,000 goal have reached \$24,901. However, less than half the convention's co-operating churches have reported.

Since the start of the associational year last fall, the state's Southern Baptist churches are known to have baptized 2001 converts. Almost half the churches have

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reported their totals.

Convention leaders were hopeful that reports from the remaining churches on conversions and on the \$50,000 fund-raising campaign will make both goals attainable by July 1.

The progress report on its college occupied only a fraction of the time at the executive board's one-day June meeting here. Most of the day was given to plans to reorganize the board according to recognized business management practices.

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'Southern Invasion'
American Baptist Topic

DES MOINES, Iowa--(BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor from Texas admitted that the practice of establishing Southern Baptist churches in competition with other Baptists in the North has "gotten out of hand".

Blake Smith, pastor of University Baptist Church, Austin, Tex., told more than 1200 American Baptist convention ministers that the Southern Baptist invasion "threatened the unity of Baptists on this continent more seriously than the Civil War."

He spoke on a three-man forum, "The Southern Baptist invasion; right or wrong?" at the ministers council meeting just before the 52nd annual session of the American Baptist Convention June 4-9 in Des Moines.

Historical background of the "invasion" was given by Robert G. Torbet, dean of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kans. He told how both Northern and Southern Conventions sent missionaries to each other's "territory" until comity agreements were made in 1894 and again in 1912.

However, the 1951 Southern Baptist Convention disavowed any territorial limits to its expansion and since then the invasion has been in full swing, according to Torbet. This fact was confirmed by both Smith and the speaker for the American Baptist view, Frank M. Kepner, pastor, First Baptist Church, Long Beach, Calif.

Smith gave three reasons why Southerners feel justified in establishing churches in the North: They don't feel at home in Northern churches when they move, so they set up their own style and then petition for affiliation with the Southern Convention; they fear the ecumenical connections of American Baptists; and they suspect American Baptists are doctrinally unsound.

Smith warned that the first reason was valid; he chided American Baptists for not welcoming transplanted Southerners, and suggested in passing that the Northern group might well follow its people when they move to the South. The other two reasons are less valid, he said.

Torbet said that both conventions "share the same essential witness and tradition, but their interpretation of that tradition is sufficiently broad to permit a full recognition of other Christian communions as fellow workmen with God."

Kepner said American Baptists could agree with the Southern missions to redeem the world and their message of salvation, but disagreed with their methods, which do not recognize comity principles.

Smith himself deplored the "programmatic understanding" held by Southern Baptists which make their official "program" more important than ethics. Statistical gains become primary; how they are made is secondary.

Hope for the future was expressed by Smith and Kepner, both citing the co-operative Baptist Jubilee Advance as good step. Smith said many Southern Baptists are also "deeply concerned" over these practices---a hopeful sign that "grace is at work."

He said further that the Home Mission Board had stated a policy of not supporting any church which is located in competition with another Baptist church of any kind. This does not stop state conventions from sending missionaries to the North, but Smith expressed hope that state and local churches would turn to the Home Mission Board for guidance.

"If a truly Christian spirit prevails among us, structures of co-operation from the local community all the way up to the Convention level can be devised without difficulty," he said.

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Colorado Proposes Hike In Percentage To SBC

DENVER, Colo.--(BP)--Baptists of Colorado and five adjoining states will give a higher per centage of their offerings to Southern Baptist Convention work next year under a proposed 1960 budget.

The budget of \$290,000 will come before the Baptist General Convention of Colorado for adoption in annual session later this year. It is \$42,000 above the 1959 budget.

Messengers will be asked to approve a distribution of 21 per cent of the total amount to SBC agency support. This compares with 20 per cent being distributed to SBC agencies this year.

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Georgia Editor Favors Earlier Session Start

ATLANTA--(BP)--The editor of Georgia Baptist Convention's weekly paper has suggested several ways in which he feels the program of the annual Southern Baptist Convention can be improved.

In an editorial, John Hurt, Jr., editor of the Christian Index here, said that the Convention session should open a day earlier. He advised dropping afternoon sessions, saying that messengers find it difficult to sit through long morning, afternoon, and night sessions each day.

"Let's discover the difference between an order of business that is practical and one that depends on a miracle. The miracles are not developing."

Other shortcomings, according to Hurt, are:

Failure to provide enough scheduled time to elect officers.

"Too, such important business as the survey committee report does not have any business on the end of an afternoon session. No person who looked twice at the allotted time expected it to be enough."

Foreign and Home Mission Boards deserve their night programs without anything but their own presentations. "Missions gets a priority as the purpose of the Convention. It needs more of a priority on the program."

Make the myriad meetings of special groups adjust their schedules to accommodate the Convention. "If they can't, then it still is the Convention which should have priority. It had a full week in former years."

Renew efforts to charge a registration fee, or provide "\$2,000 or so" from the \$18 million budget so that the supply of Books of Reports does not run out. "Many (reports) could be cut in half, especially those from the boards, without damage."

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Editor May Speak Out But Has Responsibility

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--"A Christian does not lose his right and responsibility to have convictions and to give expression to them, by becoming editor of a denominational periodical," the editor of the Arkansas Baptist here declared.

Erwin L. McDonald, who has not hesitated to report issues as he has seen them in a city headlined for its controversy, went on to say in an editorial in the June 11 issue:

"Those who would bridle the tongue of a pastor or an editor, or of anyone, would be the last to submit willingly to the bridling of their own tongues."

"Repressed speech," he said, leads in the direction of events which occurred in medieval history in the name of religion---the torture devices used by "ecclesiastical bigots of another day."

"We would not overlook the other side of the coin of free speech and freedom of the press--individual responsibility before God for what one says," McDonald pointed

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out. "Let us guard with our lives the God-given right to speak the truth as we see it, in love and without fear or favor."

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Pharmacy School Joins With Mercer University

MACON, Ga.--(BP)--The Southern College of Pharmacy in Atlanta will become a school of Mercer University on July 1.

Trustees of the pharmacy school made the final step when they voted to consummate the merger with the Baptist institution here. The Mercer board of trustees had already approved the merger.

The merger will entail a transfer of the charter and all assets of the Southern College of Pharmacy to Mercer. The pharmacy school will continue to operate in Atlanta.

Spright Dowell, acting president of Mercer, said Mercer trustees approved the merger because they believe it to be mutually helpful to both schools. "We have long been aware of the excellent service of the Southern College of Pharmacy, and are pleased that it is to become a part of Mercer."

"It will be a matter of interest to the general public to recall that the Mercer school of pharmacy and the Southern College of Pharmacy both began as independent organizations in 1903, and that the former was discontinued as a result of World War I. In this new relationship Mercer is re-entering the field of instruction in pharmacy," he added.

Carlton Henderson, chairman of the board of trustees of the school of pharmacy, said his board has long recognized the advantage of affiliation with a larger institution. "The merger of Southern College of Pharmacy with Mercer University fulfills the aspirations of not only our board of trustees but also of all who are supporting the college," he stated.

The pharmacy school, with an enrolment of 122, under the new arrangement will parallel the Walter F. George School of Law as an integral part of the university.

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