

August 2, 1959

**Kansas Board Votes  
Paper Control Change**

WICHITA, Kans.--(BP)--The executive board of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists has planned here to dissolve the board of directors of the weekly state denominational newspaper, The Baptist Digest.

The executive board's close, 15 to 12 vote overrode the unanimous recommendation of a survey committee that the paper continue to operate under a separate directorate.

The abolishment of the newspaper's directorate must be finally approved in the annual session of the state convention this fall. The executive board plans to bring a recommendation to this effect.

It was not apparent immediately what effect the change would have on the operating policies of the newspaper. Joe Novak of Wichita is editor.

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**Mercer Honors  
Campus Pastor**

MACON, Ga.--(BP)--Clifton A. Forrester, pastor of Tattnall Square Baptist Church in Macon, will be awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree during summer graduation exercises at Mercer University.

A native of Alabama, Forrester has been pastor of the church on the Mercer University campus since 1951, coming there from Woodlawn Baptist Church in Augusta, where he was pastor 11 years.

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**Home Mission Board  
Approves New Strategy**

GLORIETA, N. M. --(BP)--Southern Baptists' new approach to home mission work received major emphasis at the mid-year meeting of the Home Mission Board at Glorieta.

The new approach has included a re-organization of the board and a new co-operative plan of work with state mission groups.

The plan, first tried this year in Texas, places all language missionaries under direct supervision of the state, but salaries, personnel selection, and overall planning are shared by the Home Mission Board.

Under the old method there were often home and state missionaries working side by side at different salaries, and supervised by different personnel, and planning on new work was not co-ordinated.

More than 16 states are expected to use similar plans next year, according to Executive Secretary Courts Redford of Atlanta. He said all states will probably be in the plan by 1961.

New agreements on co-operative work with eight states were approved by the Home Mission Board, these states are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Louisiana, New Mexico, Ohio, and Oklahoma. Some state executive boards have already approved the plan.

An Atlanta consulting firm was authorized to study the detailed organization of the Home Mission Board as to staff, clerical, and stenographic employees.

The Southern Baptist Convention Survey Committee in Louisville has asked that such a study be made in order "To strengthen the board's organization and operation." The SBC Survey Committee commended the board for the steps it has already taken, but advised this additional work. The Home Mission Board has its offices in Atlanta.

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The board authorized a meeting of home mission personnel with the state secretaries this Fall to consider mutual problems and to further implement the new program of work with the states.

The Glorieta meeting followed by only two weeks the announcement that the Annie Armstrong offering for the Home Missions exceeded the \$2 million mark for the first time in history. This, and all other reports, indicated expansion and renewed emphasis on Home Mission work.

Redford said, "The eyes of Southern Baptists are focused on Home Missions as they have never been before."

The following actions were taken concerning use of funds: appropriation of \$40,000 to operating budget of Woman's Missionary Union for 1960; authorization of the administrative committee to recommend the distribution of all funds exceeding the Annie Armstrong Offering (the excess is now over \$38,000), and approval of the recommendations of the executive secretary for the appropriation of receipts from the advance section of the Cooperative Program for 1958.

The inclusion of Texas missionaries under the new plan of work helped push the number under appointment to 1,574. This is 360 more than at the same time last year, and approximately 200 of these were state workers. There are also 470 student workers and 409 chaplains on active duty, with 634 on reserve, none of which are included in the total number of missionaries.

Redford's report also included these announcements: big city projects in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco have received \$400,000 in Home Mission funds since 1957, mostly for the purchase of church sites, some costing as high as \$70,000.

The work of the Chaplains Commission was expanded to assist industries, institutions, and hospitals. James C. Peck will direct this work.

Alaska Baptists may also receive a new hospital, if details can be worked out. A committee of the board was appointed by President C. G. Cole to confer with the Hospital Commission concerning a hospital in Anchorage.

The board has co-operated in the implementation for work in the new state convention of Indiana. In addition to help given toward church sites and church buildings, the board is putting \$26,000 in the work in Indiana this year. Progress was reported in achieving goals for the Third Jubilee Advance, and other goals were set for future yearly emphases.

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Koger Names Associate  
Seminary Extension Dept.

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Frank P. Koger, pastor of the Kearfott Baptist Church, Martinsville, Va., has been elected associate in the Seminary Extension Department, according to an announcement by Lee Gallman, director.

Koger begins work on August 15. His territory will include North and South Carolina, the District of Columbia, and Maryland. He will live in Charlotte, N. C.

The new associate is a native of Virginia. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Koger answered the call to the ministry at the age of 31. His pastorates have been in Hillsville, Va., Mooresburg, Mohawk, and Englewood, Tenn., and for the past five years in Martinsville, Va.

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Gardner-Webb Board  
Claims To Be Unique

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--Gardner-Webb College lays claim to a unique distinction.

It is believed to be the only Baptist college in the nation with two foreign missionaries on its board of trustees.

This oddity is heightened by the fact that a trustee must live in North Carolina to be eligible for the board membership. Yet two trustees are listed as missionaries to Africa in 1959.

All perfectly in order!

The situation developed this way:

The Rev. Zeb V. Moss, pastor of Caroleen Baptist Church and a trustee since Jan. 1, will sail with his family for Northern Rhodesia in Central Africa Sept. 30. He will of necessity resign from the board, but muses, "It's a little too far for me to return for board meetings anyway."

Dr. W. Wyan Washburn, Boiling Springs physician and Gardner-Webb trustee since 1946, returned to his practice July 1 after several months as a medical missionary to Nigeria, West Africa.

A third trustee, Dr. Donald Moore of Coats, could claim missionary status, having served as a medical missionary to China for several years. He returned to North Carolina after being driven from China by the Communists.

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

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Laymen See Bright  
Prospects for Alaska

By James M. Sapp  
Director of Promotion, Brotherhood Commission, SBC

Alaska is booming. Its key cities are hustling to pave streets, erect buildings, open new housing subdivisions, start new businesses and expand trade and industry.

That's the picture 17 Southern Baptist laymen got while spending a week speaking in churches in the nation's 49th state.

The men, under the auspices of the Brotherhood Commission, visited 32 churches and missions throughout the state. They were invited by the Home Mission Board.

Fairbanks, still ever ready to be boisterous, is comfortably accepting early signs of maturity. A half dozen of the finest young men to be found anywhere are leading Southern Baptist churches as pastors and frontier citizens.

Juneau, the teeming center of a political tempest, is also the hub of a rich and prosperous area including Sitka, Ketchikan and Haines.

Even the far-flung outposts such as Kotzebue, Nome and Fort Yukon are feeling the affect of an influx of tourists and the interest of speculators.

Anchorage is bursting at the seams in an attempt to absorb all the wave of new people, new money, new demands for the services, goods and quarters it can possible hold.

One professional survey made early this year predicts Anchorage, a city of 100,000, will grow to a whopping 725,000 by 1978.

In 1958 expenditures for all products purchased by consumers in Alaskan food markets, department stores and other retail outlets totaled \$530,000,000. A total consumption of such items for 1978 is predicted to reach \$2,800,000,000 and 7,500,000,000 by 1988.

Anchorage is the anchor for Southern Baptist work. Here are the Baptist headquarters under the leadership of L. A. Watson, superintendent of missions.

Here is the 15 year old First Baptist Church -- and Felton Griffin! He is pastor. His story is fabulous, gritty and to the point. The success of this pioneer Baptist preacher clearly states the premise that a Baptist witness can be established in a hostile frontier. What's more - it can flourish.

These pioneers have knocked down the gate and build the road. Southern Baptist can now freely enter and prosper. Southern Baptists have a bridgehead in a last rugged frontier on the continent. For once, they have arrived ahead of time. They are not the last group in line. The question is "What can Southern Baptists do to best utilize this huge advantage?"

The laymen suggest these steps:

Southern Baptists can go. Many will be moving to Alaska in the years ahead. They should immediately identify themselves with a church because their influence, energy, and dedication are needed.

They can give. Beefing up the Cooperative Program is the best way to funnel greater financial assistance to Alaska - as well as to all outposts. The "funnel," more than the trickle it is now, must become a rushing stream if Southern Baptists are to keep pace with the torrent of wealth, business and industry now cascading into this big state.

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They can pray. Pioneer missionaries, pastors and members need the love, understanding and care of all Southern Baptists. Intercessory prayer for those presenting Christ to the people of such rugged areas can mean the difference between gross discouragement and faithful determination.

"What do they need?"

More of everything. More church houses, more living quarters, more literature, more Bibles, more equipment, more facilities, more institutions to tell of Christ. A Baptist hospital in Alaska now would astound the populace and bespeak the mercy and compassion of Christ for those needing such an institution.

The need is felt for a Christian college, too.

Alaska is an area where Southern Baptists can make great strides, the laymen believe, if they will only accept this challenge.

Laymen making this trip were H. L. Anderson, Heber Springs, Ark., Allison Banks, Boynton Beach, Fla., Charles Barrett, Mangum, Okla., Aubrey Byrn, Memphis, Tenn., Paul R. Cates, Nashville, Tenn., M. T. Darden, Lorenzo, Tex., G. C. Hilton, Fayetteville, Ark., Dr. W. J. Isbell, Montgomery, Ala., Paul R. Phelps, Lenoir City, Tenn., B. E. Robuck, College Park, Ga., Dr. Harvey C. Roys, Seattle, Wash., James M. Sapp, Memphis, Tenn., Vernon E. Shipp, Phoenix, Ariz., D. Thompson, Selma, Ala., M. A. Tipton, Maryville, Tenn., Bryce L. Twitty, Tulsa, Okla., Leon Williams, Lorenzo, Tex., and A. S. Hamilton, Waco, Tex.