

September 12, 1959

School Lord's Prayer
Questioned In Court

MIAMI, Fla.--(BP)--Is it unconstitutional for school children to sing hymns and say the Lord's Prayer in school?

A Miami father says it is. He also contends it is unconstitutional for children at school to hear Bible readings and to observe Christmas and Easter.

Harlow Chamberlain, a salesman, said such practices violate religious freedom. He has filed a petition here in Dade County circuit court asking for a halt to religion in the classroom.

"Free enjoyment of religious worship includes freedom not to worship", his attorney, Herbert L. Keiken said.

But Dade County School Board Attorney George E. Bolles countered that under that argument "we would have to cease opening the state legislature with a prayer and eradicate from our coins the words 'In God We Trust'."

Judge J. Fritz Gordon said the suit raises a good constitutional question and indicated he will not dismiss it.

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Georgia Cooperative
Budget \$3 Million

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention will receive a Cooperative Program budget recommendation of nearly \$3 million for next year.

The Convention's executive committee agreed on a recommendation of \$2,988,660, an increase of \$126,724, which will go before the convention in November. The budget provides \$1,334,830 for state causes, an increase of \$57,987, with a similar amount for the Southern Baptist Convention. The remaining \$319,000 is for administration, promotion, Relief and Annuity Board retirement plans.

Norman College, a junior college at Norman Park, Ga., asked the executive committee to pave the way for it to become a part of the convention and the committee approved. Title to the college has been in the hands of trustees elected by co-operating associations instead of the convention, although it has received Cooperative Program funds.

If accepted, Norman would be the sixth Georgia Baptist institution and the third to come under the convention in recent years, Shorter College at Rome having made the change this year and Brewton-Parker Junior College at Ailey about 10 years ago.

Mercer University at Macon, Tift College at Forsyth, and Truett-McConnell Junior College at Cleveland are the other institutions.

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New Agency Head Gives
Address To Graduates

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--T. Sloane Guy, Jr., new executive secretary and superintendent of Southern Baptist Hospitals, delivered the commencement address to nurses graduating from Mather School of Nursing here.

The school of nursing is a part of Southern Baptist Hospital, one of two hospitals operated by the Southern Baptist Convention under the hospital agency headed by Guy.

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Garland Hendricks
On Leave To India

WAKE FOREST, N. C.--(BP)--Garland A. Hendricks, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been chosen by the National Grange to head a three-month study tour of rural India.

Hendricks, professor of church-community development and director of field work at Southeastern, is chaplain of the state Grange. He has been granted a leave of absence from the Seminary and will be accompanied on the tour by Mrs. Hendricks.

Leaving in late November and returning about Mar.1, 1960, the Hendrickses will travel with a party of 10 men and women from various parts of the nation. Hendricks will serve as administrative director of the group as it tours all areas of India.

The study tour is being sponsored by Farmers and World Affairs, Inc., for the purpose of obtaining a better understanding of rural community life in India and of promoting American ideals for a peaceful world community.

While in India the group will be meeting with top officials of the Indian government as well as attending several large scale agricultural meetings and participating in the World Agricultural Fair.

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Folks & facts.....

.....The 10 Methodist theological schools graduated a total of 680 persons with bachelor of divinity or equivalent degrees at the end of the 1958-59 school year, a record number and 86 more than last year.

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Florida Plans Budget,
Accepts Home Property

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(BP)--A 1959-60 operations budget of \$2,200,000 was approved by the board of missions of Florida Baptist Convention here. This budget, which is \$150,000 larger than the 1958-59 budget, will be submitted to the state convention for its final approval during the November meeting in Tallahassee.

Half of the \$2,200,000 budget from Cooperative Program receipts will be used within Florida and half sent to national and world mission causes outside the state. Cooperative Program receipts above the \$2,200,000 for operations will go to capital funds and will be divided 75 per cent to state convention causes and 25 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

In addition to support of all the varied field missions carried on by the 70 employees of the Florida Baptist Convention from the operations budget, funds are provided for the institutions of the convention as follows: Florida Baptist Children's Home, \$126,700; Stetson University, \$167,425; Baptist Bible Institute, \$58,825; Baptist Retirement Homes, Inc., \$45,250.

The total administrative and promotional budget (shared 50-50 between the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention) of \$390,000 was divided thus: administration, including salaries, office expense, and travel expense for the executive secretary, his associates, and 15 field secretaries, \$217,369; Woman's Missionary Union, \$42,388; retirement plans for convention employees and convention's percentage for all pastors and church employees in the plans, \$130,242.

The board also voted to accept the proffered gift of some 25 acres of land and a 2½-story dwelling in Vero Beach, Fla. Property is to be used in the development of one unit of Baptist Retirement Homes.

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A grant of \$75 per month toward its pastor's salary for the next year was authorized for the Borinquen Church in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. This church is affiliated with Tampa Bay Association of churches.

Since Executive Secretary John ~~A.~~ Maguire cannot attend the Baptist World Congress next year it was voted for Gus Johnson, Jacksonville, who is handling the promotion of the world mission program, to attend the Congress in Rio de Janeiro and to visit South American mission fields in course of the trip.

A new staff position, director of Sunbeam work, was authorized for Woman's Missionary Union but the position has not yet been filled.

Final plans were also outlined for moving convention offices from 218 W. Church St. to the new Florida Baptist Building at 1230 Hendricks Ave. in Jacksonville within a few weeks.