

September 26, 1959

'Spirit Of Conquest'  
Said Characteristic

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Compassion, conviction, and conquest are key words to Southern Baptists, their president declared in a speech before the Convention's Executive Committee here.

Ramsey Pollard of Knoxville, Tenn., said "One of the most hopeful signs among Southern Baptists is the spirit of conquest."

He explained that Southern Baptists are not engaged in a "pugnacious conquest" in which they compete with other denominations. "We're not here to compete," Pollard added.

But Pollard firmly declared that "If we lose the spirit of conquest, then God will have to raise some other group to carry the banner of Christ." He said the Convention's "30,000 Movement" is evidence of its spirit of conquest.

During this movement, Southern Baptists are endeavoring to establishing 10,000 new churches and 20,000 new missions before the end of 1964.

"Compassion and conviction," Pollard continued, "are tied together. Without conviction we'll never have a compassionate heart. Without compassion and evangelism our seminaries would not prosper."

The reason Southern Baptists' six seminaries have high enrolments, the reason Southern Baptists are raising great amounts of money for Christian work is because Baptists possess "the spirit of wholesome Bible evangelism," the Southern Baptist Convention president asserted.

With regard to conviction, Pollard said there is a need to "patiently and thoroughly indoctrinate our people. We need our seminaries to be rocks on which we can build for eternity."

On another subject, Pollard, pastor of Knoxville's Broadway Baptist Church, said that people often think that the president of the Southern Baptist Convention is the official spokesman for the Convention. He pointed out that "I speak as an individual."

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Half Of Pastors Say  
Mail Volume Too Much

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The mailman rings too often for many Southern Baptist ministers, a survey conducted by a denominational research department here disclosed.

Of about 1100 pastors in nine states replying to the survey questionnaire, 45 per cent said, "I feel I get too much mail from denominational sources."

However, another 49.7 per cent of pastors said "I get the right amount" of denominational mail. And 1 in every 20 pastors wants the postman to ring more often. They don't feel they get enough from their denomination.

Approximately 60 per cent of pastors to whom questionnaires were sent completed them. The states included California, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Missouri.

The survey was conducted by the department of research and statistic of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The department picked states which it said would give it an accurate sampling of the opinion of the denomination's 26,000 ministers.

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Statistician Martin Bradley told the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, to whom the report was given, that pastors of larger churches receive more mail. Too, he continued, "as the amount of mail increases, attitudes become more critical with regard to amount of mail."

The same survey brought out the fact that the pastors sampled "appreciated and used" the Convention Annual, published each year containing minutes of the Convention proceedings, reports of agencies, and lists of pastors and denominational workers.

The pastors' attitudes toward their Baptist state weekly newspapers varied from state to state. However, Bradley said, there was a general desire for more Baptist news and more doctrinal items in the papers.

Nearly one-half of the group favored a separate public relations commission in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The survey included questions about the Cooperative Program, the financial plan of Southern Baptists for supporting their work both nationally and worldwide.

"The opinion expressed . . . indicates what is apparently a strong need for added and continual information to be beamed at pastors and members alike" concerning the Cooperative Program, the survey findings stated.

One out of every seven pastors felt that the name of the Cooperative Program should be changed.

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#### First Step Taken On Agency Manual

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee took the first step here in developing an organization manual for Convention agencies.

It voted in semi-annual session to start studies on all agencies, "particularly historical studies touching on program, function, objective, etc. . . ."

The manual will describe and define each agency's responsibilities.

Where possible, "conversation (will) be conducted with the agencies in order to establish a uniform planning vocabulary and to generally indicate the direction which the committee wishes to take."

The first agency group which will be studied will be the commissions. There are eight agencies in this category, one of which bears the title "committee" ---Brotherhood Commission, Education Commission, American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission, Historical Commission, Public Affairs Committee, Christian Life Commission, Stewardship Commission, and Radio and Television Commission.

The report on the new Stewardship Commission is about complete and its functions will be outlined in recommendations to the 1960 Southern Baptist Convention session.

Detailed program studies will be conducted on all the commissions with the view to final approval by the program committee of the Executive Committee in September, 1960.

The descriptions of programs of these agencies will be passed upon by the entire Executive Committee and forwarded to the 1961 session of the Convention for adoption.

The six seminaries, Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Southern Baptist Foundation, and Southern Baptist Hospitals will be in the second category of agencies studied. Proposals will come to the Executive Committee in September, 1961, and to the Convention for adoption at its 1962 session.

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In the third and final category are the four boards---Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, and Relief and Annuity Board. Proposals on their programs will come to the Executive Committee in September, 1962, and be submitted to the 1963 Convention for adoption.

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#### Stewardship Agency Programs Proposed

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Three programs have been tentatively proposed for the newly-created Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which will come into existence next year.

The SBC Executive Committee heard the proposal that it should have programs of stewardship development, Cooperative Program promotion, and endowment and capital giving.

The proposal is subject to both Executive Committee and Convention adoption.

The new agency is to work directly with churches on "a demonstration basis only, it being understood that the state conventions are primarily responsible for stewardship promotion within their given areas."

It also is to consider the magazine, Baptist Program, as its channel to reach Southern Baptist ministers, rather than using direct mail. The Baptist Program, with a circulation of 41,500, reaches pastors and denominational workers. It is published by the Executive Committee and contains articles related to various phases of SBC activity.

In stewardship development, the new Stewardship Commission will seek "to make clear the meaning of stewardship in the lives of (church) members and to raise the level of giving to standards consistent with the highest ideals of biblical stewardship."

In this realm are tithing, church finance, church budgets, the every member canvass, and conservation of gains in giving.

In Cooperative Program promotion, it will seek to "make the members aware of the Cooperative Program as the vital central plan for support of mission, educational, and benevolent undertakings of the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Its program of endowment and capital giving would seek "to coordinate the efforts of the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention agencies in the raising of money from individuals through wills, annuities, and outright gifts."

However, the commission staff will not "be responsible for direct contact with individuals."

The Stewardship Commission will report annually to the Southern Baptist Convention sessions as do other agencies. It will "relate itself directly to the stewardship promotion conference and the Inter-Agency Council."

The Stewardship Commission was created by a vote of the 1959 Convention session. Members of the commission will be elected by the 1960 Convention.

The office of stewardship promotion of the Executive Committee is executing affairs in this field until the Commission comes into existence.

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#### Spanish Mission Becomes Church

MIAMI, Fla.--(BP)--The first Spanish Baptist church ever constituted in Florida achieved full stature here.

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It was begun as a mission of Central Baptist Church in 1948, and now bears the name First Central Baptist Church. Pastor Jose M. Flites built the membership up to 268.

J. Ray Dobbins, superintendent of missions for Miami Baptist Association delivered the sermon at the constituting service. Milton S. Leach, director of Spanish work for the association, was interpreter.

The new church is one of 10 Spanish houses of worship operated by Baptists in the Miami association.

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#### Committee Undertakes 'Exhaustive' Tax Study

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A committee very soon will begin "exhaustive research" into the tax status of property owned by Baptist churches and denominational agencies.

The committee was created by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee at its September session here. The chairman of the Executive Committee will name five members at large. Each denominational agency owning property will name a representative to serve on the committee, in many cases that person being the agency's executive secretary.

The request for the study committee came from the Baptist Sunday School Board, which for the first time this year was asked by the City of Nashville to pay taxes on six employee parking lots and the Nashville branch of the Baptist Book Store.

The city tax assessor declared the evaluation of the six parking lots at \$80,500 and asked a year's taxes of \$2415. He assessed the Baptist Book Store taxes of \$1512 on an evaluation of \$50,400.

Sunday School Board Executive Secretary James L. Sullivan declared that these properties have heretofore been considered tax exempt under Tennessee state laws. County and state government units have not asked taxes to be paid on the properties.

J. Ralph Grant of Lubbock, Tex., chairman of the subcommittee recommending the study, said:

"Baptists are in big business now. We want no preferential treatment. We want to do what is legal, moral, and right (concerning taxes). This study committee will do an exhaustive research job. It will weigh the questions of what should be considered tax-free and what should not be considered tax-free among church and denominational property."

He pointed out that the study committee will be concerned with principles involved in taxes on church property rather than in specific cases.

Sunday School Board officials said they are talking with city authorities about their tax bills.

A policy of the board concerning its Nashville property was cited in the discussion. It has been the policy of the Sunday School Board to lease out any of its property not absolutely necessary to its operations.

Recently, several thousand square feet of the new operations building in Nashville, not needed for immediate use, was leased to Genesco, a national shoe manufacturing firm. The portion of the building under lease will be on tax books for 1960, Sunday School Board officials added.

Several other pieces of board property are already on the tax rolls. This includes the huge Baird-Ward Printing Co. plant in Nashville. The Sunday School Board owns the plant property but leases it to the printing company. It is outside the city limits and not subject to city taxes, but state and county taxes have been paid on it year by year.

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The Executive Committee's decision to study the matter was the second such announcement of a tax study by Baptists in two weeks. Earlier, it was announced that the 1960 Baptist religious liberty conference in Washington, D. C., would have as its subject "churches and the American tax policy."

The conference there next year will consider the problem involved in unlimited tax exemptions for church and church-owned business enterprises.

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Jubilee Committee  
Forum For Discussions

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptists will use the Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee to continue their discussions with Negro Baptist leaders about matters of common religious interest.

This was voted by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here, following up a reference given to the Executive Committee by the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Louisville Convention, in a resolution, said:

"We recommend that the Executive Committee consider a meeting of representative leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention with leaders of the two National Conventions of Negro Baptists to discuss mutual problems."

The Executive Committee noted that "the principle of maintaining open communications with Negro Baptist leaders is sound and ought to be encouraged." It observed further that "Southern Baptists have established liaison with the leaders of the two Negro Baptist conventions through the Baptist Jubilee Advance, where mutual problems have been discussed and mutual objectives established."

The three Southern Baptist representatives on the Advance Committee were asked to "continue discussions on mutual denominational problems and . . . authorized to obtain assistance as necessary from other Southern Baptist leaders who might be of service in particular areas of discussion."

There are two Negro Baptist bodies, largest of which is the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc. This body and the Southern Baptist Convention already jointly maintain a seminary for Negro Baptist students in Nashville. The other Negro group is the National Baptist Convention of America (unincorporated).

In addition, the SBC Home Mission Board and most state Baptist conventions working with the SBC have "departments of work with National Baptists."

The Southern Baptist representatives on the Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee are C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., past president of the SBC; E. S. James, editor of the Baptist Standard, Dallas, Tex., and Porter W. Routh, Nashville, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Text of the Executive Committee action follows:

"We bring the following report on the resolution from the 1959 Convention in Louisville regarding a meeting of representatives with leaders of the two national conventions of Negro Baptists to discuss mutual problems.

- (1) We recognize that the principle of maintaining open communications with Negro Baptist leaders is sound and ought to be encouraged.
- (2) We recognize that these channels of communications are being kept open in many communities of the Southern Baptist Convention, states, and in the national organizations as well.
- (3) Southern Baptists have established liaison with the leaders of the two Negro Baptist conventions through the Baptist Jubilee Advance, where mutual problems have been discussed and mutual objectives established.

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We, therefore, recommend that the Southern Baptist representatives on the Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee, with Dr. C. C. Warren as chairman, be asked to continue discussions on mutual denominational problems and be authorized to obtain assistance as necessary from other Southern Baptist leaders who might be of service in particular areas of discussion."

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