

September 27, 1959

Target Date Set
For New Service

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A target-date of early 1960 has been set for establishing a teletypewriter network linking Baptist agencies, newspapers, and state offices in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee adopted a report of its public relations subcommittee recommending the goal for starting the communications service.

Convention agencies and offices were urged to give "careful consideration" to taking part in the network on a contracted six-month experimental period.

The public relations group said benefits of the teletypewriter network would include:

"Immediate transmission of news and promotional information on a convention-wide level.

"Expedited communications between individuals and organizations contributing to unified plans and objectives.

"Rapid dissemination of requested and generally reported statistics.

"A renewed and accelerated interest in sharing information and program developments.

"Potential saving in types of high cost communications and co-ordination of information services."

The Executive Committee also "strongly encouraged" all Southern Baptist Convention agencies to use Baptist Press news service "to the fullest extent, thus correlating and coordinating the distribution of news of Convention-wide interest."

The Baptist Press would retain its position as strictly a news-gathering and news-distributing service of Convention scope, with the agencies using their own methods for circulating promotional material or material of interest only to local Baptists.

The system of Baptist Press regional offices in Washington, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Atlanta was mentioned. These, the Committee stated, "have demonstrated the capabilities of the Baptist Press for serving various types of Southern Baptist Convention agencies with accurate and depth reporting.

"These agencies can attest to the fact that a greater volume of their material is being published in the Baptist state papers because of these co-operative regional offices. In these offices, Baptist Press depends on personnel from the agencies themselves.

"The public relations committee recommends that boards and other agencies not presently taking part in these cooperative ventures consider the advisability of doing so."

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Action of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here will lighten the burden of Southern Baptist pastors and laymen who attend the annual Convention.

Vote of the Executive Committee reduces by one-fifth the number of pages in the yearly Book of Reports. The Book of Reports, which contains reports of the agencies and committees, contained 360 pages this year. It is given to messengers registering for the Convention.

The next Book of Reports will contain a minimum of 286 pages or a maximum of 304 pages. Agencies and committees will be given an assigned number of pages in which to present their reports and must conform to that space limitation.

Executive Committee members said the space budget still "gives the agency sufficient space to make a report on a program basis to the Convention."

The reporting format also will be changed.

"The new format should be designed to give maximum of information in a minimum of space, answering the questions most asked about the operations of the agencies," the Executive Committee said.

Past reports have been too long and too subjective. Further, they have not "followed closely enough the program responsibilities of the agencies," it was stated. Future emphasis will be on more objective material.

A consistent style of reporting will be pursued from year to year under the new plan for the Books of Reports. An allowance is made for changes that may be necessary in the book's new format.

While the dimensions of the book in inches will not change, the number of pages may vary slightly from year to year because at times there are more special committees to report.

Albert McClellan, program secretary of the Executive Committee here, and James W. Merritt, Gainesville, Ga., senior secretary of the Convention, will work together in putting the new plan into operation.

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Baptist Leaders Urge Khrushchev Worship

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptist leaders meeting in Nashville during Russian Premier Khrushchev's tour of America urged President Eisenhower to invite Mr. and Mrs. Khrushchev to church.

By attending a worship service, "they might better understand the inner strength of America," the telegram from members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee declared.

The telegram also told the President of the Baptist group's prayers on his behalf as Eisenhower and Khrushchev prepared for a series of talks on world affairs.

The text of the telegram follows:

"The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention paused in its regular mid-year meeting to remember you in prayer as you approach conversations with Chairman Khrushchev. Hope was unanimously expressed that you invite Russian Premier and wife to accompany you to divine worship service on Sunday so they might better understand the inner strength of America."

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Old Seminary Sold
To Berkeley Church

BERKELEY, Calif.--(BP)--Calvary Baptist Church here will proceed with arrangements to buy property next to it formerly occupied by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

The seminary recently moved across the bay to Mill Valley, Calif., where it is taking possession of a new campus on Strawberry Point.

Action was taken by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn., to allow the seminary to sell the vacated seminary property in Berkeley to the church.

According to the action at Nashville, Golden Gate Seminary has been granted permission to borrow \$120,000 at 5-3/4 per cent interest from a bank using as collateral a note in the amount of \$170,000 at 6 per cent interest from Calvary Church.

Calvary Church will make necessary monthly payments on the bank loan of \$1318 per month for one year. Thereafter, the church will make payments of \$1675 or more per month, with the amount in excess of monthly payments due bank to be applied on interest and principal of \$50,000 due the seminary.

Two parcels of property are involved, one now owned by the church, the other by the seminary. A deed of trust would be made to the seminary for both parcels of property as collateral, the Executive Committee said.

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Midwestern's Friends
Help Acquire Property

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A plan has been approved here for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to repay its friends in Kansas City, Mo., for more than 30 acres they bought and are holding for the seminary.

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee said that the newest of the Convention's six seminaries may buy "additional tracts which trustees deem advisable." Total purchase price is \$366,256.

"The seminary will be able to make the down payments and annual payments as they come due from proposed capital allocations, without legal responsibility for the seminary," it was reported.

Baptist leaders said friends of the seminary bought the property adjacent to the 99-acre site of the seminary in Kansas City North. The 30-plus acres were for sale and the friends did not want the seminary to miss the opportunity of acquiring them.

These friends formed a corporation to hold the property. Executive Committee action enables the seminary to begin paying for the land.

The Executive Committee also approved Midwestern's borrowing \$700,000 against 1961 proposed capital allocations from the Convention's Cooperative Program budget for campus development.

The new seminary last year used facilities of Calvary Baptist Church. A last-minute rush by the contractors permitted the seminary to move into four buildings on its 99-acre permanent campus in time for fall student registration.

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Baptist Group Suggests
Church Aid Procedure

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Use of "established channels" for assisting church extension in pioneer areas was advocated here by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Financing through established channels refers to the standard procedure for

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handling gifts. They are forwarded from the helping church to the state Baptist office, from the state Baptist office through the Executive Committee to the Home Mission Board, and from the Home Mission Board to the area in which the churches to be helped are located.

It was pointed out, however, that a church still has the right to make direct donations to a younger church in a pioneer area. The Executive Committee's action is only a recommendation.

The Executive Committee took a position here at its September meeting because the question had been raised how an older, established church should financially assist a new church, particularly in a pioneer area.

The Executive Committee said that \$4 million in capital needs will be provided during the period 1959-63 through the Cooperative Program "for church extension through the Home Mission Board." It urged churches to increase Cooperative Program gifts in order to support church extension.

In another statement, the Executive Committee declared:

"It is suggested that the Home Mission Board obtain and screen carefully the vital priority places and areas in the pioneer fields, and that upon request from a church or state executive board, the Home Mission Board may be considered free as a helpful and protective service to share pertinent information regarding the pioneer mission fields to any church and the respective state mission office."

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Hays, Hammarskjold
Have UN Conference

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Brooks Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, returned here after spending two days at United Nations in New York City as the Convention's observer.

It was the first visit to United Nations of an observer from Southern Baptists. Hays was elected at the annual meeting of the Convention's Christian Life Commission last summer.

During his two-day visit, Hays conferred with Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold and with the United States Mission to United Nations. He told them of Southern Baptists' desire to have contact with the UN. Hays was once in the United States government delegation to UN.

The former Arkansas Congressman, now a director of Tennessee Valley Authority here, also met with observers from other denominations, including the observer appointed by the American Baptist Convention.

Hays said he probably will return to the United Nations in about a month.

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