

FROM ATLANTA OFFICE

WALKER L. KNIGHT, regional editor  
161 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 3, Georgia  
Telephone: JACKSON 3-2593

November 12, 1959

Missions, Evangelism  
Occupy Georgia Baptists

AUGUSTA, Ga.---(BP)---Georgia Baptists, in their 138th annual convention here devoted most of their deliberations to missions and evangelism, with no major controversies appearing.

They did adopt a petition to the U.S. State Department, calling on that department "to use its good offices in Spain immediately in terminating the oppression of the pastor and members of the Second Baptist Church in Madrid, and other evangelical churches throughout Spain..." Louie D. Newton, pastor of Atlanta's Druid Hills Church, authored the petition.

The question of church-state separation was raised briefly when the convention gave Tift College at Forsyth, one of six Baptist colleges in Georgia, permission to borrow up to \$300,000 to renovate a girls' dormitory "at the most favorable rate attainable."

A Macon pastor, B. L. Bond, asked if "the most favorable rate" couldn't be obtained from the federal government, and if borrowing cheaper money from the government didn't amount to government subsidization. President Carey T. Vinzant of Tift said, in essence, "we haven't yet decided where we will borrow the money," and approval for the loan was voted with no further discussion.

In other actions, Georgia Baptists adopted a record Cooperative Program budget goal for 1960 of \$2,988,660, an increase of \$126,724; approved transfer of Norman College in Norman Park from ownership of district associations in South Georgia to convention ownership and enlarged sizes of the Georgia Baptist Hospital Commission and board of directors of The Christian Index, state Baptist paper.

Howard P. Giddens, pastor of First Baptist Church in Athens, was re-elected to a second term as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. An announced recommendation to propose amending the constitution to limit convention presidents to one year in office was delayed for a year by James P. Wesberry, pastor of the Morningside Church in Atlanta and immediate past president of the convention.

The 1960 convention will meet at the Savannah City Auditorium Nov. 15-17, with Savannah First Baptist Church as host.

-30-

Atlanta Church Building  
Sold to Build College

ATLANTA, Ga.---(BP)---The building and property of Central Baptist Church, one of Atlanta's most historic churches, were sold to the next-door Central Presbyterian Church last week for about \$203,000.

The building, directly across the street from the Georgia state capitol building, will be demolished after April and new Presbyterian buildings, probably recreational, erected on the spot.

Proceeds from the sale will go to trustees of the proposed Atlanta Baptist College, now in a \$3-million campaign to begin a school in Atlanta as a coordinate of Mercer University.

(more)

The Central Baptist Church, once one of Atlanta's largest, gradually died out through the years because of downtown expressway, traffic, slum and population problems. In April, 1957, the remaining members voted to deed the property to the Atlanta Baptist Association, with the stipulation that the property or proceeds be given to the planned Atlanta Baptist College. H. T. Eldridge, pastor at time of disbandment, is now pastor of Atlanta's Moreland Avenue Baptist Church.

A branch of the Mercer University Extension Service has been meeting in the building since that time. It will continue to meet there until demolition starts, probably about May 1.

-30-

"Time Running Out  
For 30,000"---Warren

CHARLOTTE, N.C.---(BP)---"Time for the 30,000 Movement is fast running out," warned C. G. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., director of the movement for Southern Baptists. "In spite of all that we have accomplished we are running over a year behind schedule."

Warren, who made the announcement from his hospital bed where he is recovering from a serious heart attack, compared the movement to his own predicament. "How much time do I have left?" he asked. "That is entirely in God's hand. My chief concern is that which gripped my heart when I left the pastorate, the 30,000 Movement.

"I am convinced that the Lord has more work for me to do and that He will supply all needful grace and strength for the unfinished task before me."

Warren was stricken October 15, and this week doctors allowed him to sit up in bed. He had been giving all his time to the movement to establish 20,000 missions and 10,000 churches by 1964.

The movement was launched by Warren when he was president of the Southern Baptist Convention. In his final address as president he challenged messengers to establish the 30,000 churches and missions. Since that time, Warren has been placed on the Home Mission Board staff to direct the movement and more than 8,500 have been established.

Five groups among Southern Baptists were singled out by Warren who bear the weight of the challenge. He listed these as the pastors, the Southern Baptist joint committee for Promotion and the 30,000 Movement, the state 30,000 chairmen, the associational missions committees, and the church missions committees.

-30-

Largest Sunday School  
In Far East Led By Baptist

TOKYO, Japan---(BP)---A Southern Baptist chaplain here heads the largest Sunday school in the Far East, according to Comet, a service publication.

Captain Sam E. Brian, a native of Milam, Texas, supervises a staff of 137 teachers and helpers who care for more than 1,350 enrolled in the Sunday school.

The pupils are children and personnel of the 6000th Support Wing of Air Force, and attracts other Americans from the areas of Grant Heights, Momote Village, Matsumi Dai, and Camp Drake.

-30-