

November 14, 1959

Florida Convention
Elects W. Hal Hunter

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--W. Hal Hunter of Crestview, Fla., has been elected president of the Florida Baptist Convention. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Crestview.

Hunter will succeed Carl A. Howell of Jacksonville at the end of the 98th annual session of the convention held here.

Baptists departed from their usual custom and elected two laymen vice presidents--one of whom stands a good chance of being Florida's next governor. They are Doyle E. Carlton, Jr., of Wauchula and J. Allison Banks of Pompano Beach.

Carlton, a state senator, is the son of former Gov. Doyle E. Carlton and is considered a front runner in next year's governorship campaign in Florida.

M. D. Jackson of Edgewater was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

In his president's address, Howell called on the Convention to make Florida a truly Baptist state. He urged messengers to ask God for two more colleges or universities, two more homes for children, and two more hospitals.

The president said: "Baptists have a double responsibility and challenge now. I can only speak for myself, but I believe that God expects a Baptist church in every community in our state and a Baptist institution in every major section of our state.

"God expects Baptists to teach and preach His saving grace humbly and winsomely, yet boldly and faithfully. He expects us to match our teaching with righteous living and sacrificial service, with evangelistic zeal and world missionary endeavor. God expects Florida to be a Baptist state in the sense that the imprint and impact of our witness and testimony shall be interwoven in the life of Florida."

The fact that present Baptist institutions need financial help should not deter Baptists from going ahead with more institutions, the president added. He pointed out that North Carolina, for instance, has seven junior and senior colleges. He said it is because of these schools that North Carolina now has the highest per capita Baptist ratio in the nation.

In other action, Florida Baptists postponed efforts to establish an agency for adopting children until such time as they can establish a home for unwed mothers.

A committee headed by Harold J. Combs of Jacksonville said it didn't feel the \$50,000 cost of a home and \$20,000 a year for operational expenses could be provided at the present time. It called on the Baptist convention, however, to begin its adoptive program "at the earliest date the convention is in a position to enter this new field of endeavor."

The Baptists began studying the adoptive children field as early as 1955 and secured a license to place children for adoption through the Florida Baptist Children's Home. But then it found that without a home for unwed mothers, it could not get children to place in adoptive homes.

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Florida Adopts 1960
Budget of \$2,200,000

(11-14-59)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--The Florida Baptist Convention has adopted a budget of \$2,200,000 to be split evenly between the Florida convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

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The budget was approved at the 98th annual session here. It is the largest budget ever adopted by the Florida Baptists.

However, this includes \$390,000 for administration, to be shared equally by the state and the SBC.

It budgeted \$42,250 for Baptist Retirement Homes, Inc., and \$58,825 for the Baptist Bible Institute.

The convention also voted to divide all Cooperative Program funds above the operating budget 75 per cent to the state and 25 per cent to SBC.

Other major actions and goals include:

Two special offerings for 1959-60: special state mission objects in September and children's home offering at Thanksgiving;

All churches in Florida using the Forward Program of Church Finance;

A new policy on making and handling loans to small and weaker established churches, setting up a \$250,000 fund and limiting loans to \$7,500 to any one church;

Increasing the present loan from \$400,000 to \$500,000 to complete the fourth floor and add a fifth floor to the new Florida Baptist Building at Jacksonville.

Goals for 1959 include: (1) Increase the Cooperative Program goal by eight per cent; (2) That each co-operating church be asked to increase its gifts through the Cooperative Program by at least two per cent of its total budget receipts; (3) 30,000 baptisms; (4) 75 new churches organized, and (5) Encourage all churches to adopt a goal of at least 70 per cent of all resident members tithing during 1960.

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Maryland Name Change
In 1960 Seems Likely

(11-14-59)

BALTIMORE--(BP)--A change in the name of the Maryland Baptist Union Association seems assured next year.

A special constitutional committee recommended the name be changed to Baptist Convention of Maryland. Messengers to the 1959 session here beat down overwhelmingly a substitute motion to continue the traditional name.

Action can not become final on a constitutional change until next year. The motion to continue with the present name was offered by Francis A. Davis, Baltimore layman.

Two years ago, the association voted down a proposed name change.

The constitutional committee also recommended that trustees of three state Baptist institutions be elected by the state association rather than by the constituents of the institutions themselves. The institutions are the Baptist church extension society, the children's aid society, and the state Baptist foundation.

The Baptist Home of Maryland's trustees may also be included in the change.

The new moderator of the Maryland Baptist Union Association, elected at this session, is G. W. Bullard, pastor of Gregory Memorial Baptist Church, Baltimore.

This session saw a record messenger attendance. Enrolment was 716. The previous high was 714 registered messengers.

Roy D. Gresham, executive secretary, gave some significant facts in the annual report of state mission board. Maryland for the past year has recorded the largest number of baptisms--3658--and has given the most money in its history.

Maryland Baptists organized 8 new churches and 25 new missions in the past year. They now have 161 churches and 62 missions. There are 28 additional preaching places.

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Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program are expected to reach \$410,000 this year which is \$10,000 above the goal. The record Cooperative Program budget adopted for next year is \$425,000. The goal for new churches and missions for next year is 42 as Maryland's part in the 30,000 Movement.

The report of the state Christian life commission singled out the traffic in obscene literature. It encouraged police departments and other authorities to challenge the legality of questionable literature and to make necessary prosecutions. Citizens were asked to send all obscene materials received through the mails to the post office department with a request for action.

On the subject of peace, the commission report indicated four ways in which Baptists can help: (1) By going full steam ahead with the gospel into all the world; (2) disarming the militaristic nations by understanding, good will, and mutual respect for all peoples, beating their swords into pruning hooks on the anvil of love; (3) working for the acceptance of law and order in each community and by becoming an example for all people of all lands; and (4) cultivating a Christ-like understanding and intelligence in social and economic relations "among the people where you live."

Only a short time after he was baptized, he was killed in the first action in the Philippines.

"Dad and I will always thank God that our son found Christ in your church," the mother told Jarvis.

The Australian leader also helped to establish the Baptist National Service Auxiliary during World War II which aided servicemen. They toured Sydney hospitals daily to cheer up military patients, write their letters, and wash their clothes.

Boys' work among Australian Baptists is known as the Boys' Brigade. The organization was founded in Scotland. It is a non-denominational organization which the Baptists have dominated. Its purpose is to win boys to Christ and to train them in manliness, he said.

Jarvis is co-chairman of the commission of evangelism for the Baptist World Alliance. As did the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, he was one of the first to speak out for the establishment of a men's department within the Baptist World Alliance. It will become a reality next June at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the Baptist World Alliance Congress.