

November 26, 1959

**3 States Strengthen  
Their Own Ministry**

By the Baptist Press

Baptists in three states have moved to strengthen their own work in publications, assemblies, and new buildings.

Kentucky, Arkansas, and the District of Columbia were the last of the more than 20 state conventions and associations to hold their annual meetings. These state Baptist units are independent, but co-operate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted at Little Rock to borrow \$200,000 for a new state Baptist office building, following the lead taken by several other states during previous weeks.

The Arkansas convention also voted to discontinue its special Thanksgiving offering for the state Baptist children's home. Its total children's home budget as of 1961 will come through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist plan for supporting its varied missionary and benevolent activities.

District of Columbia Baptist Convention, affiliated both with the American and Southern Baptist Conventions, created a new department of stewardship and promotion. One of the new department's main tasks will be getting out the weekly Capital Baptist.

The newspaper has an editor only on a part-time basis despite the frequency of its publication. The new department also will have charge of stewardship promotion.

The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky approved a revised Christian education committee. Where it has had 29 members, in the future, it will have only 15 members. Principal assignment of the reconstituted committee will be to allocate funds to Kentucky Baptist schools and devise a formula for equitable distribution of funds.

Kentucky joined several other Baptist state groups in announcing its opposition to a candidate for United States President whose religion might impair his service.

Taking further note of current problems in religious liberty, Kentucky Baptists instructed their committee on public affairs to inaugurate an annual inter-faith conference on that theme.

Arkansas departed from general procedure by voting to hold its 1960 convention in Fayetteville in extreme northwestern Arkansas. Most of its annual sessions are held in Little Rock because of its central location and accommodations for messengers.

A key press conference on a side issue of Baptist importance took place in Washington, where District of Columbia Baptists met. Herbert J. Gezork of Newton Centre, Mass., president of the American Baptist Convention, and Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, were principals at the conference.

They agreed there should be no feeling of competition or "invasion" in the expansion of their respective conventions. Their attitude seemed to be summed up in this statement, with the personal pronoun applicable to either convention: "If they can reach people we can't, they are welcome."

Both conventions have affiliated churches in geographical areas in which the other convention is strongest or has the longest established work.

Teamsters Lose Sunday  
School Board Effort

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The labor union bossed by Jimmy Hoffa lost its effort to organize employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The National Labor Relations Board dismissed a petition by Nashville local of the Teamsters Union. The local had asked for an election among 94 Baptist board employees, hoping to become their bargaining agent.

The decision hinged on the number of employees which should be included in the vote, if one was called.

The Teamsters Union maintained that 94 was the number to vote; the Sunday School Board answered that 338 employees do similar work and should be included if a vote was taken.

The National Labor Relations Board took note of this wide variance in numbers of employees. It ruled the Teamsters Union's grouping of 94 workers was "arbitrary" and "not appropriate."

The Teamsters Union could still petition for an election, but to do so, it must secure signatures of about 100 workers---30 per cent of the 338 employees described by the Sunday School Board administration.

Apparently the labor union does not feel it has the strength to secure that many signatures.

"The importance and significance of this (labor board) action can be summed up as a rejection by you of the Teamsters Union," the Sunday School Board administration said in a bulletin posted at offices here.

James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, added, "Our basic position has always been that we need no union to represent our people.

"Under no circumstances, however, could we visualize a Teamster invasion into a church and denomination-owned and operated establishment. The sordid record of certain Teamster leadership as disclosed by the McClellan Committee makes it unthinkable that our employees would seek or support intervention by an element in organized labor which includes known gangsters, hoodlums, extortionists, and ex-convicts," Sullivan continued.

The Baptist board administration earlier had said it was not opposed to organized labor generally but was "bitterly opposed to everything that the present Teamsters Union leadership represents."

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A. C. Miller Retiring  
From Office Jan. 31

(picture enclosed)

(11-26-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A. C. Miller of Nashville, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced his retirement on Jan. 31.

But the 68-year-old Baptist leader won't step out of service. He is accepting what he calls "my ministry in retirement."

He will serve as pastor of the Baptist church in Sedona, Ariz., 28 miles south of Flagstaff but live on his retirement income. Miller plans to remain active as a speaker at revivals, Baptist assemblies, and conferences, and to complete two books. The Sedona church, recently organized with 17 members, is located in a pioneer mission area for Southern Baptists.

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Miller, in a technical sense, has been the only full-time administrator of the Christian Life Commission. Although he succeeded Hugh A. Brimm of Louisville, Ky., on Jan. 1, 1953, the agency then was the Social Service Commission.

A change in its name was already in the works.

The Christian Life Commission is expected to take due steps in the near future to seek Miller's successor.

Filling the shoes of executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission has not been an easy task. Miller's chief objective has been to develop a program to win Southern Baptists' acceptance of the commission.

The Southern Baptist Convention assigned the Commission responsibility for working in the touchy area of Christian race relations. It also has work in the fields of crime and juvenile delinquency, marriage and the family, liquor and narcotics, and decent literature.

Several 1960 programs have been planned by the Commission---a series of conferences on Southern Baptists' duty toward the aging; conferences on world peace at assemblies in Glorieta, N. M., and Ridgecrest, N. C., and a seminar at United Nations next fall.

Miller said these activities will proceed as scheduled.

Acker C. Miller was born Dec. 22, 1891 on a ranch in Coke County in West central Texas. He graduated from Baptist-owned Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex., and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

After pastorates in Scottsburg, Ind., and Cleveland, Okla., the trail led back to Texas. Miller accepted pastorates at Cisco, and Belton, Tex.

A chaplain in World War I, Miller used that experience to advantage during World War II when he was supervisor of ministry with servicemen for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He was a contact between the churches and military camps in Texas, helping to enlist servicemen in churches where they were stationed.

As secretary of the Texas state Christian life commission from 1950-52, Miller developed a program for that Texas convention agency. If was from this post he was called to similar work for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Miller said he had planned to retire Dec. 31, 1960, but that the chance to minister on one of Southern Baptists' frontiers, plus the opportunity to finish his long-desired books was too challenging to pass up.

The subjects of the books will be the social responsibility of Christians in light of the Scriptures, and preaching on controversial issues.

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Over 50,000 Studying  
At Baptist Schools

(11-26-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Except for academies and Bible schools, Southern Baptist educational institutions showed a slight gain in total net enrolment in 1959 when compared to the previous year.

Net enrolments in seminaries, junior and senior colleges, and academies and Bible schools for the current scholastic year stand at 50,161, according to Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, executive secretary, Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The net enrolment a year ago was 48,117. Net enrolment represents full-time students.

Steady, year-by-year gains have been shown in nearly every category of institutions. The slight decrease in seminary enrolment observed in 1958 has more than recovered in 1959.

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Only the seminaries are operated directly by the Southern Baptist Convention. The other institutions--30 senior colleges, 21 junior colleges, four Bible schools, and eight academies---are operated by state Baptist groups.

Seminary enrolment this year is 5130, up from 4976 a year ago and 5118 in the fall of 1957.

Senior colleges have increased net enrolments over the year from 32,136 to 33,003 and junior colleges are up from 8304 to 9340. Academies and Bible schools declined from 2701 to 2688.

The largest enrolment is at Baylor University, Waco, Tex.---5716. Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem, N. C., follows with 2505. Only other one to surpass 2000 is Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., with 2018.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth maintains its position as top among seminaries, having net enrolment of 1961. It gained 54 students over the year before.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., remains the next largest seminary despite a drop from 1105 to 976 in net enrolment. Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary also show slight decreases.

Two North Carolina junior colleges are at the summit in their classification--Mars Hill at Mars Hill, N. C., with 1056 and Campbell College at Buies Creek with 1025.

Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia leads its group with 650 students.

The slight gains apparently reflect the fact that many institutions are operating at peak enrolments. They lack classroom or dormitory space for additional students.

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Illinois Acquires More  
Property At Champaign

(11-26-59)

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--The board of directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association voted here to buy additional property for \$58,000 as site of the Baptist Student Center at Champaign, Ill.

The new property joins the present site at the rear. One lot is an improvised parking lot. The other has an apartment house located on it. This acquisition will provide parking space for the occupants of the student center containing dormitory space for 70 students. The apartment building will be used by the Chair of Bible while construction is under way.

The center serves students attending University of Illinois.

It is expected that construction on the new building, plans for which were approved two years ago, will begin in the spring.

Arthur E. Farmer, pastor, First Baptist Church, Metropolis, Ill., and chairman of the board for the past three years, was re-elected.

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Folks & facts.....

.....More than 82 per cent of the persons who became full-fledged ministers of The Methodist Church during the 1958-59 conference year had seminary degrees. This was the highest percentage ever for the denomination. During the year 723 ministers with bachelor of divinity degrees from seminaries were received into full connection by Methodist annual conferences in the United States.

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