

BAPTIST FEATURES

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W. C. Fields, *Director*

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

December 19, 1959

10,000 Attendance
Aim Of Lay Meeting

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--An attendance goal of more than 10,000 men has been set for the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men which will be held here Sept. 13-15, 1961.

The attendance assignment was made at a meeting of the promotions committee for the event. L. E. Coleman, Sr., Memphis, associate secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission, and R. N. Landers, Atlanta, are co-chairmen.

W. C. Fields, Nashville, director of public relations for the Executive Committee, S B C, was elected chairman of the publicity committee.

J. W. Fisher of Jefferson City, Mo., Missouri State Baptist Brotherhood secretary, and Bernard D. King, Georgia Baptist Brotherhood secretary, Atlanta, are chairmen of other committees.

The nation-wide conference is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and state Brotherhood secretaries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Every state and several foreign countries will be represented at the conference.

The first conference, held two years ago at Oklahoma City, attracted 6128 men.

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Heart Attack In Car
Fatal To Eastham

(12-19-59)

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.--(BP)--A former secretary of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and president of Missouri Baptist Convention in 1952 and 1953 died of a heart attack Dec. 14 while driving his car on U S 65 between Buffalo and Springfield, Mo.

Dr. Fred C. Eastham, 60, pastor for 14 years of First Baptist Church, Springfield, had spoken at a delayed "M" night Training Union meeting at Buffalo and was returning home when stricken. He was able to bring his car nearly to a stop on the roadside before it eased into a tree. He was alone and was dead when found.

Dr. Eastham had served pastorates in Dallas and Wichita Falls, Tex., and was widely known throughout the Southern Baptist Convention for his evangelistic and denominational ministry.

He served on the boards of Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo. He had also served as chairman of the hospital board of Southern Baptist Convention and as a member of the executive board and executive committee of Missouri Baptist Convention.

He was born at Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 11, 1899. He was educated at Baylor University, Hardin-Simmons University, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He held honorary degrees from Hardin-Simmons and William Jewell College. His immediate survivors are his wife, Mrs. Wanda Eastham, and a brother, Guy Eastham.

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CORRECTION:

(12-19-59)

In Nashville Baptist Press release of Dec. 13, concerning 11 states building new offices, in paragraph seven please change figure for Arkansas convention from \$200,000 to \$75,000. (Part of the borrowed funds will be used for other purposes than a state office building.)

NASHVILLE OFFICE, BAPTIST PRESS

Buck This Competition
To Have A Deerer Tale

BALTIMORE--(BP)--Roy D. Gresham of Baltimore, executive secretary of Maryland Baptist Union Association, told a tall tale about a deer at a Baptist Training Union "M" night rally in Baltimore recently.

Announcing that he had just spent the day deer-hunting, the Baptist executive secretary related this "experience":

"I got my deer all right, and I was trying to drag him out of the woods. I tied my gun to his horns to give me some leverage to pull him with. After awhile I stopped to rest. While I was sitting on a log my deer jumped up and ran off.

"Circling around on the other side of the woods, I came upon another hunter on his stand. I told him that if he saw a deer coming through the woods with a rifle tied on his horns, it was my rifle.

"He replied, 'Mister, if I see a deer coming through the woods with a rifle on his horns, you can have my rifle--I'm leaving!'"

This brought down the house. Gresham later confided that it was a story he picked up from an old-timer on Maryland's eastern shore. "But I can't say that it didn't actually happen," he added. "A deer is awfully hard to kill."

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Texan New President
Elected For Judson

(12-19-59)

MARION, Ala.--(BP)--Conwell A. Anderson has been elected president of Judson College here, according to an announcement by Horace G. Williams of Tuscaloosa, Ala., chairman of trustees.

Anderson, now dean at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex., was elected unanimously to succeed J. I. Riddle who will retire next July 31 after more than 17 years with Judson, Baptist senior college for women.

In 1954, Anderson earned the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Alabama in the fields of history and political science.

Since 1954, Anderson has been dean and associate professor at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, a Texas Baptist College for women. He has previously been an instructor in three University of Alabama extension centers, and was an instructor at the university from 1953 to 1954.

Current enrolment figures show a total of 263 young women now attending Judson.

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L. T. Lowrey Stepping
Down As President

(12-19-59)

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss.--(BP)--Dr. Lawrence T. Lowrey, a prophet with honor in his home town, will retire as president of Blue Mountain College here May 31 after 35 years as its head.

The college for women here is an institution of Mississippi Baptist Convention.

College trustees have elected Wilfred C. Tyler, chairman of the department of religious education at Blue Mountain College, to succeed Lowrey. The retiring executive will become president emeritus.

Lowrey is a native of Blue Mountain, born Aug. 14, 1888. He has a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College (Baptist) and master's and doctor's degrees from Columbia University. He is a past president of Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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Alabama Statistics
Reported To Board

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--(BP)--Alabama Baptists now have a record 2811 churches with an all-time high membership of 690,819, A. H. Reid, Montgomery, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention reported.

Sunday school membership is now 501,437, more than double its 1946 membership of 250,954, Reid told the convention's executive board here. It is the first time membership has surpassed one-half million.

This means the denomination is within sight of one of its program goals--a Sunday school membership of 515,000.

William K. Weaver, Jr., of Sylacauga, was elected chairman of the executive board.

Reviewing the advance program under way in Alabama, Reid noted the opening of 191 new Baptist churches in the state in 1959. There were 2,747 vacation Bible schools in Baptist churches and missions during 1959.

Cooperative Program giving has increased 184 per cent since 1952.

Evangelism secretary Ralph Longshore of Montgomery reported the 30,450 baptisms in Alabama in 1959 was an all-time record for Baptist churches in this state.

Receipts for the 1959 Cooperative Program--used for missions, education, and benevolent work--totalled \$2,982,742.

The building fund for a new state Baptist headquarters to be built in Montgomery stood at \$277,250 on Nov. 1. To this total will be added a further \$125,000 from the 1960 extra mission fund and an allocation of \$75,000 from the accumulated state missions fund, to bring the headquarters fund total up to \$477,250.

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Texarkana Hospital
'Story Of The Year'

(12-19-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Texas Baptists' rejection of a hospital in Texarkana, Tex., partly built with federal funds, has been voted the No. 1 story in the Southern Baptist Convention for 1959.

A poll of Baptist Press editors determined that the debated "invasion" of Southern Baptists into areas outside the traditional South and the American Baptist Convention's action to accept churches in the South was a close second as most important story.

The editors voted for their first 10 preferences from a list of nearly 25 important stories of the year. A preferential point rating decided the final position of the 10 top stories.

The Texarkana hospital story got 14 first place votes and 265 total points, while the "invasion" received nine first place votes and 243 total points.

Third most important 1959 Southern Baptist news story concerned the actions of several state Baptist bodies during their annual conventions in the fall, when they discussed the likelihood of a religious issue in the 1960 Presidential election.

Running fourth in importance was the decision of the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention to establish a new denominational agency, the Stewardship Commission.

The Presidential religious issue got two first place votes and 161 points, while one first place vote and 144 points were counted for the Stewardship Commission story.

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Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1959 after a controversy over dismissal of 12 professors, projected into fifth place as most important story. There were three first place votes and 114 points.

No. 6 position went to the continuing story of Southern Baptists' progress toward their goal of establishing 30,000 new churches and missions by 1964. Coupled with this was the Convention's continued participation with six other North American Baptist groups in a Baptist Jubilee Advance.

This rated one first-place vote and 91 points.

The simultaneous development of completely new campuses by two of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries was considered by Baptist Press editors as seventh ranking story of 1959. The seminaries are Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Kansas City, Mo.

This news got two first place votes and 81 points.

Two state conventions of Baptists abolished a separate board of directors for their weekly newspapers and placed supervision of the papers under the executive board of the convention. The editors, concerned about freedom of the press, believed this to be the eighth ranking story, with 80 points.

The story of Southern Baptists' adopting a goal of 3,650,000 baptisms of converts during the next five years was ninth with 79 points.

The state paper board story was marked by one more editor than the story on baptisms.

Position No. 10, by a scant one point margin, belonged to the relationships between Canada Baptists and Southern Baptists. There were two developments in this field during the year, the failure of an amendment to the SBC constitution to be voted on at the 1959 Convention because of faulty wording, and a Baptist millionaire's decision to back financially new churches in western Canada.

The amendment would have allowed Baptist churches in Canada which contribute to support of the SBC to seat messengers at the annual Convention. They are unable to send messengers under the present constitution.

This story rated no first place votes but 74 points.

Hard on heels of No. 10 story was the denomination's passing the nine million mark in total membership of its 31,000 affiliated churches. It polled 73 points but no first place votes.

Right behind in position No. 12 was the failure of the Teamsters Union to win bargaining representation of a group of 94 workers employed at the Baptist Sunday School Board, largest of all SBC agencies. It picked up one first place vote as the major story of 1959 and 72 points in all.

The Texarkana hospital was not directly rejected by the Texas convention. In the face of mounting opposition, Texarkana citizens withdrew their offer before a vote could be taken. The strength of the opposition, however, was such that a resolution cleared the convention putting it on record against this possible jeopardy of church-state separation.

A group of American Baptist Convention ministers debated the subject, "Southern Baptist Invasion: Right or Wrong?", at their annual meeting in Des Moines, Ia. Several months later the Convention's general council voted to grant affiliation to Baptist churches in the South seeking it.

Not all the eight state conventions mentioned the Roman Catholic Church, but their actions generally indicated their fear that a Catholic President of the United States might be torn between loyalty to the Vatican and loyalty to the United States. Their opposition was directed at Catholic insistence that the Catholic Church take precedence over civil government, rather than at individual candidates for office.