

February 25, 1961

Talk With Christian
Friends, Tuller Urges

NASHVILLE (BP)--Baptists of the United States need to improve their contacts with Christians of non-Baptist groups, a Baptist executive stated here.

Edwin H. Tuller of New York, general secretary, American Baptist Convention, said Baptists should be "unafraid to enter into direct communication" with other churches.

Such contacts provide Baptists an opportunity to show other Christians the Baptist view on religious liberty. Tuller said other groups were "far apart" from Baptists on this emphasis and described Baptists as having "the only answer."

He cited a case in which he said a Baptist spokesman led officials of other denominations, during a conference, to see the Baptist point of view of religious liberty.

Tuller addressed the semi-annual Southern Baptist Promotion Conference here. State and Southern Baptist Convention agency leaders attend these conferences.

He said he believed there exists a "need for united Baptist witness." If Baptists talk only between themselves, they have not fulfilled their job of communication, Tuller declared.

He called upon Baptists to continue to proclaim the word of Jesus Christ as it meets the needs of the world. "We are living in a world facing one crisis after another," Tuller said. "Jesus says in the midst of life and its problems, I will give a quality of assurance and confidence."

Tuller again said American Baptists stand ready to explore with Southern Baptists ways to achieve a more united Baptist witness. He did not recommend a specific way to achieve it.

"The emphasis is on the word, explore," he continued.

-30-

Baptists In Maryland
Call J. N. Evans Jr.

(2-25-61)

BALTIMORE (BP)--J. N. Evans Jr., pastor of Augusta Road Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C., has been elected secretary of missions and stewardship for Maryland Baptists.

Evans will head a new department of the Maryland Baptist state mission board approved by the Baptist Convention of Maryland last year.

He will be administrative director of all areas of work and all personnel included in the joint Maryland Baptist--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board cooperative mission program. He will be the coordinator of the associational and city mission programs, and direct establishment of new mission stations.

He will also direct the promotion of the programs of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in the territory served by the Baptist Convention of Maryland. This now includes the middle Atlantic and New England states as well as Maryland.

A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Evans has been pastor of the Greenville, S. C., church for 13-1/2 years. He was formerly pastor of First Baptist Church, Wallace, N. C., for eight years.

-30-

Stewardship Agency
Adds Staff Member

NASHVILLE (BP)--Mrs. B. L. (Norma) Dillingham of Nashville has been employed as editorial assistant for the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission here.

Executive Director Merrill D. Moore of Nashville said Mrs. Dillingham will assist in production of Forward Program of Church Finance and other stewardship printed materials. She will be a contact with the Baptist Sunday School Board, which sells the commission's material.

-30-

Says Baptists Can Talk
Themselves A Recession

(2-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--A prominent Baptist layman said here Southern Baptists "can talk themselves into a recession if they want to." He added the Convention is not now in a recession.

Kendall Berry of Blytheville, Ark., chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, seconded the statements made earlier by Convention President Ramsey Pollard of Memphis.

"Recessions and depressions are psychological," Berry, a banker and businessman, declared. "Things look good for Baptists if we'll take advantage of the times."

He called for greater coordination and cooperation among denominational groups. He also described the greatest need of Southern Baptists as the need "to lose ourselves in His (God's) will."

Ramsey Pollard had previously told the Executive Committee and Stewardship Commission, "I wish we would not use the term 'sagging receipts.' We're not on the downward track. God's blessing us like no other group. Let's never have an inferiority complex about our program."

-30-

Social Services Not
Enough For Migrants

(2-25-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--The need for more than social services for the army of part-time residents who plant and harvest the nation's crops was stressed here at a Baptist conference for migrants.

Participants sought ways by which they could cooperate with those who render social services so missionaries could concentrate on the spiritual ministry.

"If you feed a man he will soon be hungry, if you bathe him he will get dirty again, if you give him clothes he will soon wear them out, if you house him he is only temporarily benefited," Loyd Corder of Atlanta said. "But if you win him to the Lord you have done some lasting good."

Corder is secretary of the language groups ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board which sponsored the conference.

State Baptist conventions and associations were asked to organize churches for a ministry to the migrants by Robert Harvey of Dallas, Tex., director of migrant mission work for the Home Mission Board.

"The effectiveness of Southern Baptist migrant missions work will be greatly increased by such organization of churches," Harvey said. "The number of those working with the migrant would increase ten-fold and more."

The conference, directed by Harvey, was held in order to survey the need for migrant work, to evaluate the denomination's approach, and to project plans.

-more-

Present were missionaries to the migrants, state directors of missions, associational missionaries, American Bible Society representatives, and officials from the federal government.

The associate executive secretary of the President's Committee on Migratory Labor, John Heathershaw of Washington, addressed the conference on three occasions.

Heathershaw emphasized that the objective of the government is to bring the economy of the nation to the point that agricultural migrants can earn a normal living. He said his committee was backing legislation in favor of the migrant.

-30-

Annuity Board Drops
2 Insurance Plans

(2-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has dropped a proposed program of insurance for ministers, church workers, and denominational employees.

R. Alton Reed of Dallas, board executive secretary, said, "At present we can't offer a plan at a savings to our people."

The Executive Committee of the SBC concurred here in dropping the proposal. It was to have been presented to the Convention in its session May 23-26 at St. Louis.

The insurance program included both hospitalization and group term life insurance.

Reed said many good hospitalization plans are available through Blue Cross and other commercial programs. Pastors and church workers can form groups for hospitalization insurance in any area of the nation, he noted. Group insurance provides more economical rates.

Many Baptist churches and Baptist agencies already were furnishing employees hospitalization and group life insurance. The Baptist Sunday School Board of Nashville, largest single employer, has such a program.

State insurance regulations were among reasons Reed listed for dropping the group term life insurance program. A "definite question about the employer-employee relationship between the Annuity Board" and the insured persons would have run afoul of state insurance rules in some areas, according to Reed.

Reed urged state conventions of Baptists to consider group term insurance plans in their states. He said rural and small town pastors need hospitalization, adding "the Annuity Board intends to use every method of communication to inform them" and others of available coverage.

Pastors of churches in larger communities usually have hospitalization insurance, he continued.

-30

Name Change Remains
For Further Study

(2-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The matter of whether to change the name of the Southern Baptist Convention has been left with a subcommittee for further study.

R. L. South, North Little Rock, Ark., minister, asked the SBC Executive Committee here to consider the matter. He is a member of the Executive Committee.

The matter was referred to the administrative committee, one of the several subcommittees of the Executive Committee. When the Executive Committee met to consider subcommittee reports later, the name change was not reported out of subcommittee.

Hugh Van Eaton, Jasper, Ala., who presented the administrative committee report, said the question remains before that subcommittee.

-more-

Southern Baptist pastors in Wausau, Wis., declared recently "the term 'Southern' tends to preserve the animosity generated during the Civil War." They offered no substitute name for consideration.

But Editor Erwin L. McDonald of the Arkansas Baptist, Little Rock, wrote an editorial making such a suggestion. "Why not rename our Convention 'Baptist Convention USA'?" McDonald asked. He urged the Executive Committee "to make a thorough study of the advisability of changing the name of the Convention."

-30-

Nashville Agencies
Stay In Nashville

(2-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will keep its offices in Nashville.

The Executive Committee reached the decision at its semi-annual meeting here. It authorized a subcommittee to "investigate the matter of a site for a building in Nashville for the Executive Committee and (several) other agencies and commissions of the Convention in Nashville."

By other agencies, it was understood to refer generally to the Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, and Southern Baptist Foundation. Sunday School Board offices are not included.

The decision to stay in Nashville capped a year of discussion. During the year, the Executive Committee considered relocating in another city. Tulsa, Washington, Memphis, and other cities were mentioned or suggested.

The Executive Committee presently occupies one floor in the main office building of the Sunday School Board of the Convention. It is possible the Executive Committee will buy an existing building or it will buy a site on which to build offices.

-30-

1962 Operating Budget
Identical With 1961

(2-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The proposed Cooperative Program operating budget for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1962 is the same as the amount already approved for 1961--\$13,938,500.

Only the amount for capital needs has been increased. It was hiked from \$4,575,000 in 1961 to a proposed \$5,075,000 for 1962, a half-million dollar gain.

The recommended total budget presented to the SBC in St. Louis May 23-26 will be \$19,013,500. This does not include any anticipated advance (funds collected beyond the basic operating and capital needs), the SBC Executive Committee said.

The Executive Committee here approved the proposed budget. It will take it before the Convention for final approval.

The 1961 budget is \$18,513,500 for operations and capital needs. It set a goal of \$1.5 million in the advance section, during which only the Foreign and Home Mission Boards of the Convention share.

The SBC Annuity Board in Dallas said it did not need as much in 1962 as it was provided in 1961. It was listed for \$325,000. The Executive Committee trimmed this to \$300,000.

The \$25,000 was split among 11 agencies. The six seminaries would share a \$12,000 increase over 1961 which brought their total for 1962 to \$3,012,000. The Southern Baptist Foundation at Nashville would get \$2000 more for a total of \$40,500.

The Christian Life Commission would be increased \$2000 to a year's \$37,000; the Education Commission, \$2000 to \$62,000; the Historical Commission, \$2000 to \$44,500, and the Radio and Television Commission, \$5,000 to \$480,000.

-more-

The other operating figures would repeat the 1961 sums.

In the capital needs section, the amount to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville would rise \$150,000 over 1961 to a 1962 figure of \$500,000. The Foreign Mission Board would jump by \$475,000 to \$1,275,000.

Home Mission Board church extension loan funds would drop from \$900,000 in 1961 to \$850,000 next year. Home Mission Board capital funds would decline \$25,000 to a sum of \$255,000.

The \$50,000 allocated the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis for capital needs would not be duplicated in 1962. Otherwise capital funds for 1962 would be identical with 1961.

In light of present circumstances, the Executive Committee asked agencies not to plan to spend more than 70 per cent of their capital funds in 1961. Agency operating needs would be met before full capital funds were allocated.

"This is a precaution so no agency will overextend itself till we can see more clearly the financial picture for 1961," it was brought out in presenting the report.

The Executive Committee also voted to extend the span of the present capital needs program for as long a time as needed to fill all commitments. Normally, capital needs programs cover a five-year limit.

-30-

3 Commission Programs Go Before Convention

(2-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Programs for three commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention will be offered to the Convention for approval in May.

If they are approved there, the programs will become a part of the agency program manual being prepared by the Convention's Executive Committee. The agencies are the Christian Life, Education, and Historical Commissions.

The Executive Committee gave its approval to the descriptions of the commissions at the semi-annual meeting here.

The Christian Life Commission would have programs of Christian morality development and specialized service and coordination.

One new feature would be its providing "assistance and counsel as may be required to state (Baptist) groups interested in the care of children, the care of unwed mothers, and the care of the aged." These welfare programs are in the hands of state Baptist bodies, rather than Southern Baptist Convention directly.

Programs of the Education Commission would include (1) Christian education leadership and coordination, (2) school and college studies and surveys, (3) teacher recruitment and placement for Baptist colleges, and (4) assistance in recruiting students for Baptist schools.

A separate report approved a program of vocational guidance for persons aged 9 through 25 for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Historical Commission would be permitted these programs: (1) recording, procuring, and preserving Baptist history materials and (2) using history materials to serve history interests of Southern Baptists.

Included would be library for housing historical materials where Baptists may study them. The commission and the Sunday School Board jointly operate a library in Nashville fitting this description.

The Historical Commission would continue its gathering of Baptist biography material.

The chief concern of the Christian Life Commission was outlined as "Christian social ethics which is understood to mean the application of Christian principles to everyday living."

The Education Commission would continue to serve "as a central source of information on matters of Baptist higher education."

-30-