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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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May 4, 1961

Arkansas Medical Men
Visit San Blas Islands

MEMPHIS (BP)--Two Arkansas laymen will visit the San Blas islands off the coast of Panama this summer to minister to the medical and dental needs of the Indian inhabitants.

The two-week trip of Dr. John H. Miller, Camden physician, and Dr. James Sawyer, Benton dentist, was arranged by the Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission B ard of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The men, who are traveling at their own expense, will treat the Indians during the day and give their testimonies at night evangelistic services, explained George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission here.

Two years ago the same laymen spent 14 days pulling 650 teeth and treating the ailments of 750 persons on the small group of 50 islands.

At that time Dr. Sawyer reported he pulled teeth so rapidly he had to stop and rest an aching arm.

Why are the men going again?

"The need is terrific. They have no medical facilities at all," said Dr. Miller. "And this will be a great opportunity to testify. We want to convince them (the Indians) that we are two laymen who are genuinely interested in them and their needs."

While in the San Blas area the Arkansans will work with L. D. Wood, superintendent of the Home Mission Board's work in Panama.

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Baptist Youth, 17,
Illinois 'Governor' (5-4-61)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--A Southern Baptist youth, Warren Nash, 17, active member of Grace Baptist Church, Granite City, Ill., became youth governor of Illinois.

Warren was elected by the Illinois Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) youth at a pre-legislative conference at Champaign, Ill.

The Baptist young man was governor of the state for two days at the youth government session in the Capitol here.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Nash, Granite City. He has only missed one Sunday's attendance at Grace Church since it was organized three years ago.

Warren has held all Sunday school and Training Union offices possible while a Junior and Intermediate, and now he is the junior Royal Ambassador counselor for his church.

Young Nash said that he does not intend to enter politics as a career, but not because he does not like politics. He thinks he will like commercial art much better.

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April Income Up--
But Year Is Behind

NASHVILLE (BP)--Even though Cooperative Program receipts for April, 1961 exceeded those for April, 1960, agency income for the Southern Baptist Convention through this channel is still trailing 1960 on a calendar year basis.

Treasurer Porter Routh of the SBC announced here April Cooperative Program receipts from state Baptist offices came to $1,499,746 compared with $1,461,574 in April, 1960.

January-April, 1961 year-to-date receipts through the Convention-wide share of Cooperative Program funds amounted to $5,729,871. For the same four months of 1960, this income was $5,813,146. The loss is 1.43 per cent.

Meantime designated funds continued to rise. In April, 1961 the designated amount (largely Annie Armstrong Offering money for home missions) was $1,104,067 bringing the year so far to $9,213,529. The comparative figure for 1960 was $8,571,811. This is a 7.49 per cent increase.

Total for April was $2,603,814 through both means of giving. This made the first third of 1961 reach $14,943,401 against $14,384,957 for the first four months of 1960--a gain of 3.88 per cent.

Income reported from Routh's office does not account for Cooperative Program gifts from churches retained by state Baptist offices for statewide purposes. It does not count the money kept by local churches for local expenses.

A check by states showed that 12 of 28 cooperating state conventions have forwarded less through the Cooperative Program thus far in 1961 than in 1960. Amounts of shortage vary from $400 to $86,000 depending on the state.

Only two states are behind the 1960 amounts via designations. The greatest variance here is only $15,000.

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Tommy Lane To Direct
Men's Conference Music (5-4-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Tommy Lane, widely-known minister of music at Bellevue Baptist Church here, will direct the music Sept. 13-15 at the Second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men in Memphis.

Selection of Lane, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, was announced by James M. Sapp, Memphis, program chairman.

The music director will lead a 300-voice choir and co-ordinate the group with the 40-piece Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) band in several numbers.

Lane directed the music at First Baptist Church, Ponca City, Okla., before going to Bellevue in 1948. He continued in that position when W. Ramsey Pollard, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, became pastor of Bellevue last year.

About 10,000 men are expected to attend the conference, which has the theme, "That The World May Know." Besides the music, dramatic presentations and seminars, they will hear addresses by Charles Malik, former president of the United Nations General Assembly; Brooks Hays, assistant secretary of state and former SBC president; W. W. Adams, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Roy McClain, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

The conference is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and state Brotherhood departments.

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Missouri In Long-Range
Financial Program Plan

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--A long-range plan for increased Cooperative Program support has been approved enthusiastically by the executive board of the Missouri Baptist Convention here. The proposal will receive final action at the annual meeting of Missouri Baptist Convention next October.

The plan, covering the years 1962-70, calls for a progressive increase in the percentage of total gifts of the churches going through the Cooperative Program to be matched on the state level by an increase in the percentage of Cooperative Program funds going to causes outside of Missouri.

For instance, the plan for 1962 proposes that when the proportion of the total gifts of the churches going through the Cooperative Program reaches 13 per cent, the proportion of Cooperative Program funds reaching the state office would increase to 36 per cent for causes beyond Missouri.

The part of total gifts of the churches in Missouri now going through the Cooperative Program is slightly above 11 per cent. The present state division of Cooperative Program funds is 35 per cent for causes outside Missouri.

For the years 1963 and 1964, when the proportion of total gifts through the Cooperative Program would increase by 1 per cent each year, the state division of Cooperative Program funds to causes outside Missouri would increase 1 per cent each year.

In 1965 and 1966, when the increase would be 1 per cent each year of total gifts of the churches through the Cooperative Program, the state division would also increase 2 per cent each year for causes beyond Missouri.

For the years 1967 through 1970, if the proportion of total gifts going through the Cooperative Program increased 2 per cent each year, the state division would also increase 2 per cent of Cooperative Program funds each year going to causes outside the state.

By 1970, the plan proposes that 25 per cent of the total gifts of the churches be given through the Cooperative Program, and that the state division at that time would reach 50-50.

In terms of dollars, estimated total gifts of the churches by 1970 would be $27 million; distributable Cooperative Program funds would be $6,750,000, and the state division would be $3,375,000 each for objectives in the state and causes outside the state.

The Missouri plan has no provision for preferred items before division of Cooperative Program funds and none is proposed in the long-range plan.

In other actions, the board approved $10,000 appropriations for two of the convention's student centers; increased the size of Windermere Baptist Assembly to 1200 acres, and gave financial assistance to two more new missionary projects in Iowa.

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Indiana Acts For Land,
Agency Representation (5-4-61)

PLAINFIELD, Ind. (BP)--Indiana Southern Baptists voted here, through their excutive board, to negotiate for 4.87 acres of land for a state convention office building.

The land, presently undeveloped, is in Speedway, Ind., a suburb of Indianapolis. Present owners are asking $41,000 for it.

The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana has offices now in Plainfield, several miles west of Indianapolis. E. H. Moore of Plainfield, executive secretary of the convention, said the location of two interstate highway routes in Speedway dictated the site choice.

"We will be accessible from every part of the state," he said.

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The convention serves 25,977 Baptists in 143 affiliated churches, according to the executive secretary. Having attained that membership figure, the executive board voted to petition the Southern Baptist Convention for the right to have Indiana members of as many SBC agencies as possible.

The Indiana convention came into being in October, 1958. Previously, Indiana Southern Baptist churches cooperated with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky or with the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Moore would not forecast when construction would begin on the office building. He said architect's plans have not been made yet.

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Chambers, Oklahoma (5-4-61)
Evangelist, Buried

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Funeral services for Robert R. Chambers, associate secretary of the department of evangelism, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma were held May 1 in First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

Chambers, 49, died in Baptist Memorial Hospital here following major surgery.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chambers had been pastor at Cushing, Okla., before accepting the call to the convention position here.

At the time of his death, he was president of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society. He had served on the board of directors of the state convention and was chairman of the hospital committee.

Chambers was born in Sherman, Tex., in 1912.

Survivors include his wife, Emily; two sons, Larry Paul and Bob Mark, and his mother.

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John F. Soren, Ill;
Cancels Trip To U. S. (5-4-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--John F. Soren of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, president of the Baptist World Alliance, has cancelled a May-June trip to North America because of illness.

Soren cabled Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Alliance here, news of an impending operation and expressed his "regrets and apologies" at not being able to fulfill a score of engagements in the United States and Canada.

The cable said that the Baptist leader's condition is "not serious."

Soren's announced schedule was to begin with the baccalaureate address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, May 18, and conclude with a meeting of the Alliance executive committee at Wake Forest, N. C., June 27-29.

Addresses at the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, the American Baptist Convention, the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, and the Student and Foreign Missions Conferences at the Southern Baptist assembly in Ridgecrest, N. C., are among the appointments cancelled.

He was to have made commencement addresses at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Oklahoma Baptist University, and Franklin College (Indiana), and baccalaureate addresses at the Louisville seminary and Alderson-Broaddus College. He had been scheduled too for worship services at a number of cities, including Alexandria, Va., Baltimore, Md., Chicago, and Greensboro, N. C.

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EDITORS: Several desire a pre-Convention business roundup. This is it. Feel free to adapt it to whatever extent you deem best.

Election Major Item
Known For St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (BP)--More than 15,000 Southern Baptists move into St. Louis May 23-26 to hold their annual Convention.

The major itme of business known ahead of time to come to attention of the messengers, from more than 32,000 churches with over 9.7 million members, is the election of a new president succeeding W. Ramsey Pollard of Memphis.

Pollard, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, has served two successive one-year terms. The Convention constitution forbids reelection after that point.

No one has been formally advanced as a candidate for the presidency but it is almost certain the next president will be a man and a minister. Since no formal announcement of candidacy is required ahead of time, Convention messengers are often kept guessing until the very hour for nominations.

Pollard will deliver his final address as Convention president at noon Wednesday, May 24. The Convention opens on Tuesday night, May 23, with the main item on the agenda being the annual Convention Sermon. A. B. VanArsdale, Decatur, Ala., minister pinchhitting for Evangelist Billy Graham, will preadh the sermon.

The adoption of a budget on which Southern Baptist Convention agencies will operate during 1962 is another major point of business. The Convention's Executive Committee will recommend a budget basically the same as the one being used in 1961.

The operating expense total of the Cooperative Program budget will be the same--$13,938,500. Only the amount for capital needs would be increased, from $4,575,000 to $5,075,000, a half-million dollar gain. This total budget, considered to be the minimum agency needs for operating and expanding, is a proposed $19,013,500.

Several possible issues lie in the background. Although some have said they will make some of these issues on the floor of the Convention, it can not be predicted with certainty they will be.

Potential newsmaking questions could be:

1. Changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention. A recurring issue every year or two, this question was raised again by Southern Baptist pastors serving churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They feel the term "Southern" handicaps the denomination in the North. No substitute name yet suggested appears to be ready for passage.

2. Segregation. This could be a question, but the elements which made this perhaps the most vital issue before the 1954 Convention session in St. Louis are not the same today.

3. Relations with other Baptist groups in North America. Baptists on the continent are at the midway point of a six-year emphasis called the Baptist Jubilee Advance. About 20 million Baptists from seven separate Conventions or Associations are cooperating in this venture. Several reports to the Convention this year deal with this advance. A number of calls have gone out for closer harmony with these groups.

4. A so-called slackened pace in Southern Baptists' rapid growth in numbers, church contributions and church extension. President Ramsey Pollard does not feel such a slackening off is in existence but others have pointed to statistics which they say indicates a slowed pace.

5. The report on church extension. Chairman C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., reporting for the 30,000 Movement, has declared more than 11,000 churches or missions have been established in the Convention since the movement originated with his appeal in 1956 while president of the SBC. His challenge goal: 30,000 new churches or missions over the period 1956-1964.

6. Parochial school aid. Observers of past Conventions, where many resolutions on church-state issues have been passed, would say there is a good chance of some action being proposed at St. Louis in light of Roman Catholic Church leaders' cur-

rent demands for government tax support for their sectarian schools. Baptists staunchly oppose such aid to themselves and other religions.

7. Choice of meeting place for the 1966 Convention. Kansas City, Mo., and Detroit will be recommended. Since so many hotel and motel rooms are needed to house the messengers, and since much advance preparation goes into the Convention each year, the Convention votes five years ahead on future sites. The Convention has never met in Detroit, while 1963 has already been selected as the date for a return to Kansas City.

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Folks and Facts..... (5-4-61)

.....Official announcement of the plans of Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C., to become a senior college was made by Dean Ralph M. Lee. The Baptist college dean said, "Mars Hill will begin its senior college program by adding the third year in the fall of 1962 and the fourth year at the beginning of the 1963 fall term." (BP)

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.....Dotson M. Nelson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C., and chairman of Furman University trustees, has resigned to become pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church near Howard University in Birmingham, Ala., effective in June. His leaving South Carolina will also create a state vacancy on the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. (BP)

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