

1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

FOR RELEASE: 9:00 P. M.  
Wednesday, May 24, 1961

News Summary, Foreign Mission Board Report  
Richmond, Va.

Despite having to turn down many worthy goals for lack of funds, Southern Baptists experienced a year of advances in 1960 in all three global areas of their foreign missions work.

Baker J. Cauthen of Richmond, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, reported these advances to the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention in his report at St. Louis.

With the appointment of 137 new missionaries in 1960, a record of 1480 foreign missionaries were under appointment or actually on the mission fields in 45 countries of the world.

The 1961 objective is appointment of 160 missionaries, a part of the long-range goal of 2000 missionaries under appointment at the close of 1964--the climaxing year of the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

In Latin-America; in the Orient; in the area encompassing Africa, Europe, and the Near East, forward steps were taken in publishing, education, medical work, and church extension during 1960, Cauthen reported.

Southern Baptists are at work in 15 countries in the western hemisphere, including the United States where a publishing house to produce religious materials in Spanish is located (in El Paso).

Missionaries on Latin-American appointment number 526. The number of Southern Baptist churches in these countries passed the 2000 mark in 1960. They are served by 1348 pastors. They reported 17,219 converts baptized in 1960 compared with 14,957 the previous year. Their church membership crossed the 200,000 mark also first in 1960. Sunday school enrolment rose from 195,641 to 241,596 during the year.

Missionaries in Central and South America continued to tackle the language barriers, Cauthen said. "Five of the Paraguayan missionaries are studying Guarani three nights a week. Paraguay is a bi-lingual country, and the missionaries feel that by knowing the Indian language they will increase their effectiveness."

As in other countries, churches have been organized in Venezuela, Colombia, and Argentina to minister to English-speaking people. In Comodore Rivadavia, Argentina, the English-speaking church serves an oil field community.

"Southern Baptists cooperate in maintaining 334 schools in Latin America which enrol 39,166 students," according to Cauthen. Even on the mission field, church-state problems similar to those encountered by Baptist schools in the United States may be noticed.

"Teachers and staff members (of the missionfield schools) cannot understand why Baptist schools should decline government aid," Cauthen said.

In Torreon, Mexico, Baptists have probably the largest non-Catholic seminary in Mexico with 49 students. "Student work is an emerging phase of missionary activity," he announced. Achievements here were the launching of Baptist ministry to students attending the University of Costa Rica.

The Brazilian Baptist Publishing House in Rio de Janeiro is the largest publication enterprise of Southern Baptists anywhere in the world, Cauthen stated. A Latin-American highlight of 1960 was the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Rio for a week in June-July.

In the Orient, 500 missionaries strive toward the objective of "establishing in each country strong indigenous churches and a strong Baptist denomination. In each field the relative emphasis given to various types of work must depend on local circumstances."

Two new fields are now included in the Orient mission area--Guam and Okinawa, according to Cauthen.

"There were many 'firsts' in Baptist life in Thailand in 1960--the first ordination of a Thai preacher, the first church building dedicated, the first use of the new Baptist assembly grounds," it was reported. Also, the construction began on seminary buildings on a permanent campus site, and land was secured for a publication building in Thailand.

The first medical missionaries for Thailand reached there in 1960. In order to determine a site for a Baptist hospital in the country, a survey was launched.

"The major Foreign Mission Board allocation of funds for medical missions in the Orient during 1960 was to provide for the nursing school which is soon to be opened in...Indonesia," he added.

Other Orient nations in which Southern Baptists work include Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaya, Vietnam, Macao, and Pakistan.

There are 454 missionaries serving in Africa, Europe and the Near East--358 in the eight countries of Africa where Southern Baptists work.

When the government of Guinea declined to grant permanent resident status to missionaries, one couple originally assigned to Guinea was reassigned to Liberia, another new field. The other couple returned to Nigeria, which received its independence during 1960.

"In Africa, evangelism received a strong stimulus early in the year from the Billy Graham Campaigns. Ghana, Nigeria, Southern Rhodesia, Tanganyika, and Kenya all received benefits from these special campaigns," Cauthen observed.

"Strong emphasis continued to be placed upon the development of self-support in the churches," he added. "In Italy...the ideal of self-support was re-affirmed." Every church there was called on to declare its intention of reaching self-support within a given period of time.

"Moderate gains in religious liberty were registered in Spain where the Third Baptist Church of Madrid was allowed to reopen its sealed building and the Baptist church at Figueras was at last permitted to enter its new building," it was stated.

Outstanding in this area for education is Nigeria, where 85,710 pupils were enrolled in Baptist elementary schools. The premier of the western region of Nigeria and four members of the cabinet--under the new independence--are graduates of Baptist schools.

"The Gaza Baptist Hospital continued its unique surgical service to refugees," a service which won it recognition when the Gaza strip was involved in a war between rival factions in the Near East, several years before.

"Each year the recommendations which have been placed before the Foreign Mission Board by official action of the missions actually exceed funds available by a minimum of \$3 million," Cauthen declared. "It is urgent that we match the dedication of these lives (of mission volunteers) with increasing financial resources."

BAKER J. CAUTHEN is executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, located in Richmond, Va. After serving as a missionary himself from 1939-45, Cauthen became area secretary for the Orient under the board. He served as area secretary until 1953 when he was elected executive secretary. Cauthen is a native of Huntsville, Tex., born Dec. 20, 1909. He was educated at Stephen F. Austin Teachers College, Nacogdoches, Tex.; Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

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FOR RELEASE: 10:45 A.M.  
Wednesday, May 24, 1961

Summary, Executive Committee Report  
Nashville, Tenn.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention proposed to the St. Louis meeting of the Convention a 1962 budget for SBC agencies of \$19,013,500 through the Cooperative Program.

The new budget, if adopted, would indicate a levelling off in the amount forwarded by the 32,000 cooperating churches for the work of the Convention.

It does not call for any increase over 1961 in the basic operating funds for the 20 agencies. The sum again this year is \$13,938,500. Only the capital funds, used by the agencies for expansion, have been increased--by \$1/2 million, according to the report from Executive Secretary Porter Routh of Nashville.

The Executive Committee also reported total assets of the Southern Baptist Convention increased \$17-1/4 million during 1960. They stood at \$220,852,655 on Dec. 31. Liabilities, on the other hand, decreased by \$131,438 to \$9,322,581 at the end of calendar year 1960.

Largest single assets were those of the Convention's Annuity Board which handles retirement and annuity plans for pastors and denominational agency employees. This agency's assets were \$79,419,859 on Dec. 31. The Sunday School Board, publishing agency of the Convention, had assets of \$31,910,078; the Home Mission Board, \$24,283,203 and the Foreign Mission Board, \$18,388,282.

Among the seminaries, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, had the greatest assets--\$15,352,724, followed by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with \$12,896,332.

Heaviest liabilities on Dec. 31, 1960 were held by the Sunday School Board--\$3,338,383. The Home Mission Board had liabilities of \$1-1/2 million and Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla., \$1,363,973.

The major share of the SBC's 1962 budget, according to Routh, goes to the Foreign Mission Board--more than one-half the total. Its operating budget share for 1962 would be \$7-1/4 million. The Home Mission Board's operating share would be \$2 million.

Six seminaries would share another \$3,012,500. Next highest sum would go into producing Baptist radio and television programs--\$480,000 for the commission which handles this work.

In the capital needs phase for 1962, the Foreign Mission Board again would get the largest portion, about one-fourth of the \$5,075,000.

The Executive Committee asked the Convention to approve a long list of bylaw revisions, many of them made necessary by the Convention's adoption in its last meetings of an agency survey and reorganization.

The Executive Committee also submitted a list of proposed descriptions of SBC agencies for Convention adoption. These would become part of an agency organization manual describing the programs and duties of each agency. This, too, is an outgrowth of the survey and reorganization.

The Historical Commission, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Public Affairs Committee and a program of vocational guidance were to be included in this year's programs. Each year, another group would be submitted until the full list is approved.

The Executive Committee reported the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco as headquarters hotel for the 1962 Convention next June. The Executive Committee has the function of Convention arrangements.

It recommended Ohio and Kansas--with 25,000 Southern Baptists each now, be granted representative members on most SBC agencies.

(See separate stories in news packet about these submitted agency programs, or refer to Book of Reports, section devoted to the Executive Committee.)

PORTER W. ROUTH, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn. He is also treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention. Born in 1911, he is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and formerly edited the Baptist Messenger, weekly newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Okla. Routh was secretary of the department of survey, statistics and information, Baptist Sunday School Board, prior to becoming executive secretary of the Executive Committee in 1951.

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FOR RELEASE: 7:35 P. M.  
Wed., May 24, 1961

Woman's Missionary Union Report to SBC ✓  
Birmingham, Ala.

"The Jubilee years are bringing forth many encouraging advances in Woman's Missionary Union work," Miss Alma Hunt of Birmingham, Ala., told delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Hunt is executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the SBC.

Miss Hunt stated that Woman's Missionary Union gave particular attention in 1959-60 to leadership training, the Baptist Jubilee Advance emphasis for that year. A leadership course to be completed individual or class study was developed for Woman's Missionary Society (adult age group in WMU) members. Courses for leadership of WMU youth organizations were revised. There was a tremendous response to these, the executive secretary noted.

A total of 1,425,745 members of 91,174 WMU organizations was announced. Membership gain did not meet the goal, although 25,162 members were added to Woman's Missionary Union organizations.

Miss Hunt stated the executive board of Woman's Missionary Union had voted to change its reporting system since it feels failure to get complete reports resulted in less than a true picture.

A large increase in the number of organizations attaining recognition on "Aims for Advancement" was announced. Since the "Aims for Advancement" constitute the program of work for the year, this increase is indicative of improvement in the quality of work being done. The 14,546 organizations recognized for advancement in quality of work is an increase of 3,126 over last year.

Introduced for the first time in 1959-60 were "Aims for Advancement" for associational WMU organizations. Miss Hunt stated 206 associations attained recognition, 101 of these received honor certificates. In further discussing associational work, the executive secretary announced there were Woman's Missionary Union organizations in all but 22 of the 1,133 associations of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Miss Hunt pointed out an increase of 15,178 tithers, a 13.96 per cent increase in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and an increase of 3956 groups observing the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and 4234 observing the Week of Prayer for Home Missions.

Thirteen states reached the goal of "Subscriptions to each monthly magazine equalling 60 per cent of members of respective organizations." Periodicals published monthly by Woman's Missionary Union are Royal Service (Woman's Missionary Society), The Window (for Young Woman's Auxiliary), and Tell (for Girls' Auxiliary).

In projecting future plans Miss Hunt told briefly of the goals for the 75th anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union to be celebrated in 1963. The goals for this anniversary are in keeping with the 1963 emphasis on world missions.

"In preparation for this anniversary year, seventy-five days of prayer for world missions will be observed," said Miss Hunt. "This undergirding of prayer should add strength to all that Southern Baptists are endeavoring to do."

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MISS ALMA HUNT, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, is a native of Roanoke, Va. Prior to coming to Woman's Missionary Union in 1948, Miss Hunt was dean of women at William Jewell College, Jefferson City, Mo. She has also taught school in Virginia. Miss Hunt was educated at Virginia State Teacher's College and Columbia University. In 1958 she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from William Jewell College. ✓

Southern Baptist Convention -- 1961  
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#### TERMINOLOGY, PURPOSE, PROCEDURE

SBC TERMINOLOGY -- Baptists, because of their historic belief in the free religious choice of each person and in the autonomy of each Baptist church, use terms that may differ from those used by other denominations. Here are some examples:

1. It is never "The Baptist Church," unless referring to individual congregation of worshippers.
2. The exact and proper title of the convention is the "Southern Baptist Convention."
3. Churches "co-operate with," or are "affiliated with," the Southern Baptist Convention. They are not bound by any of its decisions, nor can the Southern Baptist Convention exercise control or authority over any church.
4. Churches send "messengers" -- not "delegates" -- to the Southern Baptist Convention. The churches have not delegated authority to their messengers; though a certain church's messengers may vote for a particular Convention policy, the church is not bound to observe it.
5. No one can "speak for" the Southern Baptist Convention, not even its president. He speaks only for himself.
6. There are 28 "state Baptist conventions" or "general associations," each independent of, but co-operating in the work of the Southern Baptist Convention. These state organizations have agencies of their own and operate colleges, hospitals, and children's homes. The Southern Baptist Convention has no jurisdiction over agencies and policies of a state Baptist convention.

The autonomy of each Baptist church is a major factor in the Southern Baptist Convention's not being a part of the National or World Council of Churches. The Convention could not commit its co-operating churches in this matter. There is no hostility toward the Councils of Churches, only a belief on the part of Southern Baptists that the Christian cause can be best served through independence.

Two other terms crop up at sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention which may not be familiar. The title "executive secretary" means that the individual is the top staff executive for a particular agency.

The other term is "Cooperative Program." This describes the channel through which Southern Baptist churches support missions and benevolent work of their state Baptist conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The fact that one agency of the Southern Baptist Convention is called a commission, another a board, another an institution, does not indicate that one holds superiority over the other. Generally speaking, the four boards are the largest agencies.

WHO ATTENDS THE CONVENTION? -- Voting on Convention business is done by messengers from the churches. Each church is entitled to at least one messenger. Depending on the church's membership and/or contributions to work of the Southern Baptist Convention, it may have additional messengers up to a maximum of 10.

Attendance, however, is not limited to messengers. Many people attend who do not have messenger status. They cannot vote on business presented to the Convention. Messengers usually comprise about two-thirds of the attendance. Many of the non-messengers are Baptists who live in or near the city where the annual Convention is in session.

Seats are kept available to messengers until five minutes before the starting time for any session of the annual Convention. After that time, the seats are no longer reserved and may be claimed by anyone.

"Fraternal messengers" come to the Convention nearly every year to bring greetings from other Baptist conventions in the world. There is nearly always a fraternal messenger on hand from the American Baptist Convention. Fraternal messengers do not vote on Convention business.

## TERMINOLOGY, PURPOSE, PROCEDURE Continued

WORKING TOOLS OF MESSENGERS -- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention find a number of items of printed material necessary. The Book Of Reports contains the annual reports of committees and agencies of the Convention, and includes any recommendations these may make that require a vote. Another working tool is the Convention Bulletin, a newspaper published daily during the Convention. The Convention Bulletin contains announcements of business, times and places of special meetings, and other items of vital interest. Following the annual session, the contents of the Book of Reports and the proceedings of the Convention are compiled into the Southern Baptist Annual. The Annual also contains a directory of pastors and denominational workers by states. The Southern Baptist Handbook supplies messengers with the latest statistics on Southern Baptist Convention work, together with certain directories and other valuable data. Copies of the Handbook, Annual, Book of Reports, and daily Bulletins are available in the pressroom to members of the press.

PURPOSE OF THE SBC -- The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845 "to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad, and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the kingdom of God."

The Southern Baptist Convention carries on its work through various agencies. The agencies include boards, commissions, and institutions. For a complete listing of these agencies and their annual reports for 1959, see Book of Reports.

The institutions include six seminaries operated and controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention, a school of missions and social work, and a Negro seminary jointly operated and supported by the Southern Baptist Convention and National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., the largest Negro Baptist convention. The convention operates hospitals in New Orleans and in Jacksonville, Fla.

The boards and commissions have responsibilities in such fields as publishing, missionary activity, education, historical material, Christian life, Baptist public affairs, etc. These are permanent agencies with full-time administrative staffs.

The Southern Baptist Convention also functions through committees, most of which are created to meet some special work. These committees are set up on a year-to-year basis. That is, a committee named in 1960 will report to the convention in 1961 and is subject to being discharged then unless the Convention renames the committee. The committees are staffed generally by pastors and laymen and denominational workers from throughout the SBC. They are not paid for their committee work except for being reimbursed for necessary travel and other expenses.

The Executive Committee is a continuing organization of the Southern Baptist Convention, empowered to act for the Convention between its sessions in matters not otherwise provided for by the Convention.

Some Executive Committee responsibilities include serving as the fiscal, fiduciary, and executive agency of the Convention in affairs not committed to an agency or committee. The Executive Committee has oversight of arrangements for the annual meetings of the Convention.

It receives funds contributed for denomination-wide work and distributes these to agencies of the Convention according to Cooperative Program distribution system approved by the Convention. The Executive Committee also acts in an advisory capacity on questions of co-operation between agencies of the Convention, or between agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and the co-operating state Baptist conventions, or between Southern Baptists and other Baptist conventions.

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Background Information  
(with Brotherhood Commission report)

Brotherhood Request for Camping Policy

NOTE: This story deals with a request put before the Executive Committee of the Convention, not before the Convention itself. Since the Brotherhood discusses this matter in its annual report to the Convention, we include this background.

Fresh Action Wanted  
On Campcraft Center

(3-2-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists' agency for laymen and boys wants to be able to accept free land for a campcraft training center.

It has brought the matter to the attention of the Convention's Executive Committee here. The Executive Committee has taken the request under study, assigning it to its program subcommittee.

The Brotherhood Commission at Memphis singled out the fact it was turned down by the Executive Committee when it sought to accept 1822 acres of mountain terrain in northwest Arkansas. A group of Baptist laymen offered the land as a place to develop "a vigorous and capable Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador leadership, and in providing a training center," it said.

The previous action came at the September, 1960 session of the Executive Committee. The Committee held Southern Baptist Convention policy assigned operation of Conventionwide assemblies to the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Brotherhood Commission, in a resolution, said this action imposes "a very serious handicap...in carrying out the responsibility placed upon it by the Convention."

It said the Convention transferred Royal Ambassadors, a boy's missionary unit, to the Brotherhood for direction. "Camping and campcraft activities are a necessary phase of Royal Ambassador work," the commission maintained.

The commission denied its campcraft training center will conflict with existing assembly programs. It "should be developed by the Brotherhood Commission without restraint or control of any other Convention agency except the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention through its programming responsibility," the resolution declared.

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For Background  
(With Cooperative Program report)

Cooperative Program Prayer, Study Week Being Developed

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Baptist agency here will lead in development of a churchwide plan for an annual emphasis of prayer and study on the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program is the financial plan of the Southern Baptists for meeting state Baptist mission needs as well as those of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Stewardship Commission of the Convention at its semi-annual meeting here in March voted to direct the project, on request of the SBC Executive Committee.

Merrill D. Moore of Nashville, executive director of the commission, said churches will be asked to set aside a week in 1962 for the first annual emphasis on the Cooperative Program.

"There is a tremendous demand for it," Moore said. "All those with whom we will work are very enthusiastic about it." The Commission was assigned the task of helping select a name for the week and working out a suitable date on an already crowded denominational calendar.

"Everyone who has discussed it has agreed it is of such great importance it will be worth the sacrifices necessary in adjusting the calendar to include it," according to Moore.

He added no special offering is anticipated during the week of prayer and study. Other special weeks of study and prayer for home missions, foreign missions, and state missions carry a special offering.

"The purpose of the Cooperative Program week of study and prayer is to inform the people about the Cooperative Program. It is to encourage church members to provide a larger share of their budget to go through the Cooperative Program, and to stimulate giving all through the year through the church budget rather than at only one time of the year," Moore said.

He ranked the idea for a week of study and prayer as the "biggest idea" for the Cooperative Program since it was developed in 1925. Moore said he believes the idea stands alongside the \$75 million campaign of a bygone day in importance.

The special \$75 million campaign helped meet Southern Baptists' mission needs.

Executive secretaries of state Baptist conventions brought the matter before the Executive Committee, whose meeting immediately preceded the Stewardship Commission's.

John A. Maguire, executive secretary, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, said state leaders "hope by 1963 a graded series of study course material will be developed on the Cooperative Program, with a section included to point out the work supported by the Cooperative Program in various states."

He urged the best possible week in the year be chosen for the prayer-study emphasis.



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Background Information  
(In case issue arises)

Big Loan Corporation  
Fails In Committee

(2-26-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The proposed \$3 million Baptist Home Mission Board Church Loan Corporation was rejected here in February by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The Home Mission Board wanted to place the church loan corporation before the full Convention in St. Louis in May for approval. It required attention of the Executive Committee to be certain it conformed to the business and financial plan of the Convention.

A prominent Baptist lay member of the Executive Committee took strong exception to the committee's action. Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss., industrialist, said the proposed corporation would meet the needs of churches in pioneer areas, where Southern Baptists are growing.

A fellow Mississippian, W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson, replied the corporation would "take a stated amount of money in hand and pyramid that money by legal and just procedures to make possible three or four times that amount of capital.

"We must bear in mind always what may be correct business procedure among businesses may not always be that for churches and denominations," Hudgins, a minister and former SBC vice-president, added.

"Every dime would be guaranteed by the good faith of Southern Baptists" if such a corporation were to be created, according to Hudgins. If the corporation suffered a loss, the Convention would be morally, even if not legally, liable.

Kendall Berry of Blytheville, Ark., lay chairman of the Executive Committee, cited the business and financial plan where it reads:

"An agency or institution shall not create any liability or indebtedness except such as can and will be repaid out of its anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three years, without the consent of the Convention or the Executive Committee. In order to obtain such approval, the agency must file a statement showing the source of such anticipated receipts."

Porter Routh of Nashville, committee executive secretary, declared, "This action (the rejection) should in no way indicate the lack of concern in a very real problem on the part of the Convention and the Executive Committee."

Hudgins also voiced similar feelings that opposition to the corporation should not be considered as lack of recognizing the "great need for church loans."

It was pointed out the Convention through the Cooperative Program has made several large allocations to church extension loan funds of the Home Mission Board. This included \$900,000 each in 1960 and 1961 and a proposed \$850,000 in 1962.

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For Background

EDITORS: The following story recalls events when the SBC last met in St. Louis

Supreme Court Ruling  
Created 1954 Interest

(3-26-61)

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on public school integration occupied the main spot in the nation's news when the Southern Baptist Convention last met here in 1954.

A recommendation, ultimately adopted, from the Convention's Christian Life Commission concerning this court ruling created the most interest and controversy at the 1954 Convention session.

Other highlights of the 1954 St. Louis Convention were the addition of the word "television" to the Radio Commission, making it the Radio and Television Commission of the Convention. The commission also was authorized to consider moving its office from Atlanta.

The Convention adopted a \$9.2 million Cooperative Program budget for its agencies for 1955, not including the advance section.

R. E. Milam, Portland, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, pleaded for Southern Baptists to extend their work into Canada.

The Convention adopted a plan to observe a World Missions Week in 1956 to encourage increased giving through the Cooperative Program.

The Royal Ambassadors, boys' missionary organization, were to be transferred from Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary, to the Convention's Brotherhood Commission, a layman's organization.

J. W. Storer, then pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, was reelected president of the Convention. Homer G. Lindsay of Jacksonville, Fla., was elected first vice-president and O. R. Shields, St. Louis minister who was general chairman of 1954 Convention arrangements, became second vice-president.

The Convention voted to (through its Executive Committee) develop a series of daily newspaper advertisements of Baptist beliefs.

The Convention overruled an effort to delete the Christian Life Commission's recommendation which recognized the Supreme Court decision as being "in harmony with the constitutional guarantee of equal freedom to all citizens, and with the Christian principles of equal justice and love for all men."

The recommendation, as adopted, urged Christians "to conduct themselves in this period of adjustment in the spirit of Christ" and expressed belief in the public school system in America.

The Radio-TV Commission later moved to Fort Worth, Tex., where it is now located.

The Oregon-Washington convention granted state convention affiliation to Baptist churches in two provinces in far western Canada. The Southern Baptist Convention later set up a Committee on Canadian Baptist Cooperation to offer any help to Canadian Baptists which was requested.

The 1961 St. Louis Convention will hear plans for a week of prayer and study for the Cooperative Program, the financial plan for the Convention's support of its agencies. Cooperative Program giving to the SBC reached \$17.5 million in 1960.

Storer, after retiring as pastor at First Church, Tulsa, was called as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville. He will give that agency's annual report to the 1961 session.

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Background Information  
(With Executive Committee recommendations)

Scouting, State Representation Before Convention

Kansas, Ohio Gain  
Agency Membership

(2-26-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Kansas and Ohio became eligible this year for full representation on Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention here voted to ask the Convention at St. Louis in May to grant them representation. (See Executive Committee report to the Convention.)

This does not mean the two states will have members on every agency, because charters of some agencies have special provisions. Most agencies will be included, however.

Kansas several years ago gained representation on the four boards and Executive Committee. Bylaw changes have since been completed on the SBC Constitution to give them representation on still more agencies.

Ohio has not previously had members on agencies. It will be allowed representatives on all agencies whose charters permit.

Eligibility for agencies depends on membership of cooperating churches. When this membership passes 25,000, a state may apply for representation.

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Boy Scout Liaison  
Duties Suggested

(2-26-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--It has been suggested the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis receive duties of being liaison between the Southern Baptist Convention and Boy Scouts of America.

The matter goes before the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention session at St. Louis for approval.

The Brotherhood, an agency of the Convention, would provide service to pastors of Southern Baptist churches and to such boys as might be seeking help to earn a God and Country Award.

It would also act as a go-between in matters of common concern. The commission, however, wouldn't be responsible for promoting or servicing Boy Scout troupes in Baptist churches.

Nor would the agency's Royal Ambassador program be affected. The Ambassadors are a missionary group for Baptist boys. The Brotherhood itself is a layman's organization which directs the boys' movement.

The Executive Committee of the SDC recommended the duties to the Brotherhood Commission at its meeting here.

No agency of the Convention has had liaison responsibility before. Joe Carrington, a retired Austin, Tex., businessman, has worked through an Association of Southern Baptists for Scouting. The association had no formal ties with Baptist agencies.

In earning a God and Country Award, a Scout passes through three stages. In one stage he gives evidence of regular personal devotions, stewardship, knowledge of Baptist mission fields, and location of Baptist agencies. In another, he explains doctrines held by Baptists, such as baptism and the Lord's supper.

Many boys are members of both the Boy Scouts and Royal Ambassadors. Some of the knowledge and experience gained in one organization helps the boy meet requirements in the other group.

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For Background (With reports)

Two February Executive Committee Actions  
Bearing on Future Conventions

1962 Convention Hotel

(2-26-61)

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--The headquarters hotel for the 1962 session of the Southern Baptist Convention here will be the St. Francis Hotel. The Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary, will make the Whitcomb Hotel its headquarters. Convention sessions will be in the 10,000-seat Civic Auditorium.

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Kansas City, Detroit  
Possible 1966 Cities

(2-26-61)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Kansas City, Mo, and Detroit are top contenders for the site of the 1966 Southern Baptist Convention session.

Both were referred by the SBC Executive Committee for consideration at the Convention in St. Louis in May. The Committee on Time, Place and Preacher will suggest a 1966 city when it reports, probably on Friday.

Southern Baptists are well-acquainted with Kansas City, having met there in 1956 and having scheduled another session there in 1963.

Detroit is a newcomer. Fred D. Hubbs of that city, executive secretary of Baptist State Convention of Michigan, feels a session in Detroit will help Southern Baptists get a look first hand at work in the Great Lakes area.

The city has a 13,000-seat, \$54 million civic auditorium on the banks of the Detroit River, overlooking Canada. Seven of the largest hotels in Detroit are within walking distance, it was reported. Accommodations are adequate to have the Convention.

The only session in the Great Lakes area, site of rapid Southern Baptist expanse from New York state to Minnesota, has been in Chicago.

Kansas City has a well-organized local program of Southern Baptist work. The Convention's newest theological seminary, Midwestern, has built a campus there. It adjoins Kansas, another growing edge of Southern Baptists. The auditorium is conveniently-located in the heart of the city.

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1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

FOR RELEASE: 6:50 P. M.  
Wednesday, May 24, 1961

American Bible Society Summary ✓

The greatest upsurge in history in distribution of Scriptures for world mission work was reported by the American Bible Society at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

Nearly all records were shattered in 1960 with more than 23 million volumes distributed by the American Bible Society. More than 13-1/2 million volumes were distributed in this country and more than 9-1/2 million volumes outside the U.S.A., according to field secretary Thomas T. Holloway of Dallas.

This was an increase of more than 5 million over the number of volumes distributed in 1959 and more than 8 million over the average 15 million volumes per year for the past nine years.

The American Bible Society is a missionary non-profit organization which serves the churches and mission boards of more than 50 denominations. It is engaged in translating, publishing, distributing and encouraging the use of the Bible in 75 countries and territories on five continents.

In addition to the usual books in printed form, the society provides Scriptures for the blind in Braille and other raised-letter systems for finger-tip reading; and also talking-book records. The finger-phono, a lightweight plastic phonograph operated by one finger, is now being supplied with Scripture recordings in the languages needed in areas where few people can read.

Supported by gifts from churches and individuals, the American Bible Society received in 1960 contributions totaling approximately \$4 million. (The Southern Baptist Conventions makes no direct budget appropriation.)

Gifts from churches of all denominations exceeded one million dollars for the first time, with a total of \$1,001,768. Southern Baptist churches gave \$151,626 and stood in second place. Methodist gifts led with a total of \$151,934.

One highlight of the year's work was in Cuba where, in the midst of political disturbances and unrest, Scripture distribution rose to a new high of 611,933 volumes. Facing the prospect of further difficulties which might cut off shipments into Cuba, the Bible Society used emergency funds to build up in Cuba a reserve supply of Scriptures adequate for a full year.

All-time-high needs were also outlined. Seeking to serve the increasing calls for Scriptures throughout the world, the American Bible Society has approved for 1961 a record \$4,307,000 budget--but still faces in many lands urgent calls for specific needs beyond the budget for the current year.

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THOMAS T. HOLLOWAY is field secretary for the American Bible Society with his headquarters in Dallas, Texas. He was the first Southern Baptist on the staff of the society. His 19 years of service with the society has been spent principally in working with Southern Baptists. Holloway is a native of Texas and was educated at Southern Methodist University, Princeton Theological Seminary and Princeton University. Main office of the society is in New York City.

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1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

For Release: 11:50 A. M.  
Wed., May 24, 1961

43rd Annuity Board Report, Dallas, Tex.

Almost \$34½ million has been paid to Southern Baptist pastors, church and denominational employees by the Annuity Board since its founding 43 years ago.

R. Alton Reed, Dallas, executive secretary of the Annuity Board, said almost \$2,750,000 of this sum was paid out in 1960, making it the largest sum ever disbursed in any one year by this Southwide agency.

Reed, in his seventh annual report as executive secretary, told messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis 1960 was the "biggest year of growth in the board's history."

"For the past several years, such a statement has been made," he said. "Now it ceases to be news."

Among some of the highlights Reed listed were these:

446 persons were added to the annuitant roll. The list included 328 retired persons, 88 widows and 30 disability cases.

2,053 new members were enlisted in the Southern Baptist Protection Plan.

For the first time in 34 years, the relief roll fell below the 1,000 mark when the year closed with 977 persons receiving relief grants.

The Variable Annuity Fund, a supplemental plan, in its first year of operation in 1960, increased in unit value from par of \$1.00 to \$1.0760.

Funds held in trust increased to more than \$82 million, almost \$9,834,000 over 1959. These funds, Reed said, are monies deposited by more than 22,000 pastors, church and denominational employees plus almost 100 agencies, boards and institutions that participate in the Protection Plan ministry.

Relief expenditures totaled \$287,809. Relief income was \$340,191, of which \$325,000 came from the Cooperative Program receipts. However, \$25,000 of this was returned and the budget for 1962 was to be reduced by the same amount.

Sixty-two per cent of the Convention's cooperating churches are in one of the plans administered by the Board. State conventions are in the process of enlisting at least 75 per cent of their churches into the Plan by January, 1962, Reed added.

He credited the rapid growth in enrollment to the promotion program which is under the direction of Floyd B. Chaffin, associate secretary. This promotion shows the lay leaders how valuable the Protection Plan is to their churches.

The Annuity Board, one of the four major boards in the Southern Baptist Convention, has its offices in the 511 North Akard Building in the heart of downtown, Dallas, Texas. Founded in 1913, its ministry is to provide and to administer a retirement-widow-disability protection program for all ministers, churches and employees of the various agencies, boards, conventions, etc.

Reed has been executive secretary of the Annuity Board since 1954.

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R. Alton Reed has been executive secretary of the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1955. Before assuming this post, he was associate secretary in charge of public relations. Reed, a native of Henderson, Tex., was born June 4, 1906. Following his education at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville, he became chief announcer and continuity supervisor for 3½ years for radio station KPLD in Dallas. He also has been pastor of several Texas churches, and founder of Park Cities Baptist Church, now one of Dallas' largest churches. In 1947, he became director of public relations and radio for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, serving until 1953 when he joined the R. & A. Board. Reed is currently president of the Church Pension Conference which is composed of 33 Protestant church-related pension agencies throughout the United States.

1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

FOR RELEASE: 7:15 P. M.  
Wed., May 24, 1961

News Summary 12  
Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Tex.

"Just a satellite away lies the possibility of the dream of the prophets come true...a vehicle which can be used to proclaim to all nations and to all people the glorious gospel of Christ."

So said Paul M. Stevens, director of the Radio and Television Commission at Fort Worth, Tex., in his filmed report to the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention.

"Man can now send radio and television signals anywhere and no unfriendly government can stop him. Communications satellites have made this possible. These and many other fantastic advances in the communications field have provided us an open door in space for our Southern Baptist radio-television ministry.

"There are many places in the world today where our missionaries cannot go, yet can easily be reached by radio. Russia is closed to us, but we preach the Baptist message there every week in the Russian language through Radio Monte Carlo.

"Red China has expelled all our missionaries, yet vast areas of China are exposed to radio from the Western world. With coming improvements in communications there will be no place on earth beyond the reach of radio. While some doors shut, others open--wider and wider. We are not doing all we can do through radio and television to spread the gospel now," Stevens observed.

"The world population is increasing each year at the rate of 50 million persons. Less than one-fourth of these are won to the Christian faith, leaving 38 million lost annually to pagan forces of our world.

"The world's population is reachable to a large degree by radio and television. These people are being reached by non-Christian forces--they are not being reached by us," he said.

The commission's director then cited what Southern Baptists are doing through radio and television: "Through more than 1100 stations we reach an estimated 50 million listeners each week with the eight radio programs and one television program produced and distributed by the Radio and Television Commission."

He listed the programs and estimated the audience of several: "The Baptist Hour," now celebrating its 20th anniversary, is on 450 stations and reaching a weekly audience of 22 million. "Master Control" is a variety program with a direct gospel appeal, now on 180 "top-rated" stations with an audience of seven million--plus a 15-minute version beamed to Great Britain.

In "The Answer" for television the dramatic format presents everyday life problems and solutions found in God's word. The weekly audience is roughly five million. Other programs are the Spanish Baptist Hour, Chapel Upstairs, a devotional program and the International Sunday School Lessons.

Stevens closed his filmed report with this challenge: "We at the Radio and Television Commission are ready to attempt the mightiest Christian witness during the next four decades of the 20th Century that the world has ever known. We can do no less if we are to measure up to the opportunities of the space age in which we live.

"The communications satellite can make it possible for us to match the population explosion with a gospel explosion. We can, if we will, use these messengers of outer space to help fill the inner emptiness in lost men's hearts."

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Director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Paul M. Stevens, was reared in Mississippi. He was an Air Force chaplain for four years and has served as pastor of many churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Georgia. He holds the bachelor's degree from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and the master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ada, Okla., when elected director of the Commission in 1953.

1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

For Release: 8:10 P.M.  
Wed., May 24, 1961

Baptist World Alliance Report  
Washington, D. C.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.--Baptists of the world are "talking with each other with more understanding and respect than ever before," a Baptist World Alliance leader told Southern Baptists at their annual convention here.

Dr. Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Alliance, said that the fellowship and harmony now being evidenced among various North American Baptist groups is characteristic of Baptists internationally as well.

The Baptist World Alliance is a non-authoritarian organization for the encouragement of fellowship, service and cooperation among all the Baptists of the world. Its constituent conventions and unions total more than 23 million baptized believers in more than 100 countries.

Two upcoming world meetings were announced. The Sixth Baptist Youth World Conference will meet at Beirut, Lebanon, in June or July 1963 and the Eleventh Baptist World Congress in Miami Beach, June-July 1965.

Dr. Joao (John) Soren, a Brazilian Baptist pastor who was elected last summer as Alliance president 1960-65, joined Dr. Nordenhaug in presentation of the BWA report. Dr. Soren, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Rio de Janeiro since January 1, 1935, is the first man from outside the United States, Canada and England to hold the high office in 56 years of Alliance history.

Dr. Nordenhaug cited Dr. Soren's election and the naming of vice-presidents from each of the earth's six continents as demonstration of what he called "the emergence of indigenous leadership in nations once considered remote mission posts." National Baptist leaders from 70 countries were included in the list of 13,000 registered delegates at the Tenth Baptist World Congress in Rio last summer.

Dr. Soren is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., though he was born and raised in Brazil. His father was pastor of the Rio church 33 years prior to his own acceptance of the church leadership.

Dr. Nordenhaug also is new to the Alliance secretaryship. He moved to the headquarters office in Washington, D. C. last November, succeeding Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, retired.

The secretary called attention to the Alliance's constitutionally assigned objectives: "(1) to more fully show the essential oneness of the Baptist people in the Lord Jesus Christ; (2) to impart inspiration to the brotherhood; and (3) to promote the spirit of fellowship, service and cooperation among its members."

Leaders of the Alliance are seeking to implement these objectives through five broad world-wide programs, Dr. Nordenhaug said. The Alliance serves, he said, as: an agency of communication, a forum for study and fraternal discussion, a channel of cooperation, a vigilant force for religious liberty, and a sponsor of regional and world-wide gatherings.

"Through its unique role in the Baptist world fellowship, the Alliance provides a means by which Baptists of many conventions and nations find ways of helping one another to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, Dr. Nordenhaug said.

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Josef Nordenhaug is completing his first year as executive secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. He was for 10 years president of the Baptist seminary near Zurich, Switzerland before heading the Alliance staff. Nordenhaug was born in Oslo, Norway Aug. 2, 1903. He holds the doctor of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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