

September 19, 1962

**Hall Defends Seminary
Orthodoxy, Teaching**

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Unfounded criticism of seminary professors was attacked here by the president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Dick H. Hall Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Decatur, said, "It was the seminary which first concerned itself with the safeguarding of orthodoxy."

He addressed students and faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on the first day of classes for the 1962-63 school year. As president of the Georgia convention, Hall is member of a committee restudying Baptist faith and message.

Hall, who has a doctor's degree from Southern, said every professor since the seminary's founding has signed the abstract of principles, a framework of doctrinal beliefs held by the institution.

"Each of our five other seminaries has adopted and maintained similar, if not identical, abstracts of principles," he added.

The Georgia minister claimed "certain men who had every right to a second term" were not reelected as trustees of one of the six seminaries when the 1962 Southern Baptist Convention met.

"One man on the committee gave as the reason: 'They refused to take a stand!' One wonders at the fairness of such a statement," Hall declared. "Whose stand must be taken in denominational matters?"

"One must conclude that the vast majority on each side of every religious controversy are sincere and dedicated Christians," according to Hall.

"Till we are very sure that there are no vulnerable holes in our armor...it is well to adopt a Gamaliel attitude that we could oppose God by attacking our brethren, and that confidence in the integrity of our...agencies is the safer, and withal, the Christian attitude. Doing what may be right in the wrong way is never justified," Hall said.

He described the current Southern Baptist doctrinal controversy as "merely tension which will strengthen our convictions and further the cause of Christ."

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**California Invites,
And Gets, Reaction**

(9-19-62)

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--"How do Baptists out in the state react to the programs we promote?"

To answer this, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California office here went to each of the state's 41 district associations. It took a questionnaire to record the replies.

The convention's executive board began going over the results at their meeting here. They reviewed the responses. Result: They are recommending adjustments here and there to improve working relationships.

At the same meeting, the board okayed a proposed 1963 Cooperative Program budget of \$935,000 to support state and worldwide Baptist work. One-fourth of it will go to the treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention, the rest staying in California.

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The 1963 budget, if approved by the convention itself in November, will be increased over 1962 in two ways. First, it involves more money. The 1962 budget is \$885,000.

Second, it gives more in percentage of the budget total to Southern Baptist Convention work nationwide and worldwide. The 1962 budget supplies only 24 per cent.

The board voted to guarantee from 25 to 40 per cent of Broadway Plan church bonds, but only after each church has first sold half the bond issue. This contract applies to cooperating Baptist churches in the convention's territory.

It also employed Milton R. Hughes, pastor at El Cajon, Calif., for a student work post in Los Angeles. He will be employed effective Nov. 1 jointly with the SBC Sunday School Board.

Hughes will work with Baptist students on the campuses of University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of Southern California.

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Ira Prosser To Direct
1963 Convention Music

(9-19-62)

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Ira C. Prosser, minister of music and education for Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., has been appointed music director for the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The appointment was announced by Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, Convention president. The 1963 Convention will meet in Kansas City, Mo.

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Baptist Editors: We will forward a picture as soon as we can.

Folks and Facts.....

(9-19-62)

.....Frank Moody Purser, retired pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oxford, Miss., and former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention died in Oxford. Funeral services were held Sept. 13. (BP)

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Cutlines

September 19, 1962

FASHION---All dressed up with a world of places to go is Nancy Brittain of Birmingham, Ala. Attired in the fashions of 1913, Nancy will be in style to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Girls' Auxiliary. (BP) Photo