

November 1, 1962

Northwest Convention  
Accepts Ranch Acreage

WENATCHEE, Wash. (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington voted here to accept an offer of 500 acres of land and other assets for Baptist use.

Located 59 miles from Pasco, Wash., the gift came from Mr. and Mrs. Long Dailie of Mesa, Wash. It will be named the Bailie Memorial Ranch.

A convention spokesman said the year-round program to be carried out at the new site would be planned later, but would not curtail Mount Baker Baptist Assembly presently operated by the convention near Everett, Wash.

Funds for Mount Baker are included in a bond issue also approved here.

There will be a program for boys in need of a home and there will be a farm operation at the Bailie Ranch, it was reported. Trustees were elected to make detailed plans.

The convention also adopted a new Cooperative Program goal of \$183,500 to be contributed by affiliated churches in the two states and western Canada. The Southern Baptist Convention will receive 17 per cent of this sum.

The SBC share for 1963 compares with only 16 per cent under the 1962 budget.

The new president of Oregon-Washington Baptists is Buren L. Higdon, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Springfield, Ore. The 1963 convention will meet in Vancouver, British Columbia, the first convention at which its affiliated churches in Canada will be host. Date: Oct. 22-24.

Sites for 1964 and 1965 were set also--Portland, Ore., and Spokane, Wash., respectively.

Laymen figured in convention actions. J. Carey Moore, Portland banker, was elected vice-president, and Dr. Harvey C. Roys, Seattle physician and pastor, was named alternate preacher of the 1963 convention sermon.

The convention's building loan fund was renamed the R. E. Milam Building Loan Fund, honoring the immediate past executive secretary of work in Oregon and Washington.

A resolution adopted by the convention commended the Supreme Court of the United States for its ruling on the New York public school official prayer.

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Nelson Of Mississippi  
College Dead; Was 82

(11-1-62)

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--D. M. Nelson, 82, president-emeritus of Mississippi College (Baptist) here, died Oct. 26 after a long illness.

Funeral services were conducted at Clinton Baptist Church. His pastor, Russell McIntire officiated. James W. Middleton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and formerly at Clinton, assisted.

Nelson was president of the college for a quarter-century. He retired five years ago after spending more than 50 years in education in Mississippi.

R. A. McLemore, president of the college, and others of the Mississippi College staff were honorary pallbearers at the funeral. Students served as active pallbearers.

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## Baptist Group Seeks North-South Merger

WASHINGTON (BP)--Seventy-six pastors and laymen from nine states and the District of Columbia in a two-day meeting here discussed the problems in uniting the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Although the majority of the group was keenly interested in such a merger, there was little hope expressed that this would be a possibility in the near future.

The Conference on Baptist Unity heard addresses on "What Seems To Divide Us," and "What Unites Us." Each subject was discussed by an American Baptist and a Southern Baptist.

Two discussion groups then talked about Baptists and the ecumenical movement, theological and cultural differences between American and Southern Baptists, and the problem of pursuing Baptist unity on the local church level.

The unity conference was closed with a communion service. It was explained that this joint observance of the Lord's Supper might be considered in the light of the "love feast" of the New Testament, and that it was a dramatic way to symbolize the fellowship of those attending the conference.

The unity talks were conducted as a "grass roots" movement without "official" representation from either of the conventions. The executive secretaries of both conventions had been notified of the plans of the group. Pastors and laymen without "official" position in either Convention constituted the conference.

The informal Baptist Unity Committee is headed by Howard R. Stewart, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Dover, Del. Edwin H. Frey, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Bethlehem, Pa., is publicity chairman.

The members of these two churches have been interested for a number of years in the eventual union of the two Baptist Conventions. After they discovered their mutual interest, a questionnaire was sent out in 1962 to try to discover the similarities and differences among Baptists in Pennsylvania and Virginia. The results were published in the Crusader, American Baptist news-magazine, in September, 1961, and reported in summary by Baptist Press.

Three planning meetings were held in 1962 to prepare for the Conference on Baptist Unity that met at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington. There will be another meeting Dec. 1 at the First Baptist Church, Washington, to discuss future plans.

It is the hope of the committee that its work will result in a unity committee in each American and Southern Baptist church, each state convention and each national Convention.

Samuel S. Hill Jr., professor in the department of religion at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, delivered the keynote address in which he discussed some of the problems that confront Baptists in the "post-modern age."

During a panel discussion Hill was asked what he thought about the possibilities of a union of American and Southern Baptists. He was very pessimistic about the prospects.

Hill said the outlook for unity among Southern Baptists is dimmed by the prospect of further divisions among themselves. He freely predicted the possibility of a Southern Baptist Convention split along conservative and liberal lines. He said the firing of a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is symptomatic of the unrest among Southern Baptists.

Although he said that the division might take place along conservative and liberal lines, with the ultraconservatives taking the lead in the division, it might also take place along geographical lines with Baptists west of the Mississippi River following the splinter group.

Hill said that the next five to 10 years will be crucial for the future of Southern Baptists. He indicated that Baptist young people in liberal schools like the University of North Carolina, Duke University, Vanderbilt, Emory and others "are very, very dissatisfied with the Southern Baptist Convention." Many of them are leaving the Baptists,

but many of them are also staying with the hope of reform from within, he said.

Norman Maring, professor at Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, presented an American Baptist view on "What Seems To Divide Us." James E. Tull, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., expressed a Southern Baptist view on the same subject.

Discussing "What Unites Us," Edwin H. Pruden, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Washington, approached it from an American Baptist viewpoint. William Lumpkin, pastor of the Freemason Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., gave a Southern Baptist view.

A wide variety of differences between American and Southern Baptists, both apparent and real, were set forth by Maring and Tull. They are summarized as follows:

(1) The regional focus of denomination life; (2) the centralized structure of denominational organization; (3) differing interpretations of the doctrine of the church; (4) varying approaches to evangelism--hot and personal in the South, cold and social in the North;

(5) Hostility and friendliness to the ecumenical movement; (6) the practice of open membership in some American Baptist churches; (7) provincialism of both groups; and (8) a lack of any widespread sense of urgency to find a larger measure of unity.

Similarly, a number of common characteristics of both American and Southern Baptists were pointed out by Pruden and Lumpkin. They are summarized as follows:

(1) A common Baptist heritage; (2) the same story of Baptist beginnings in America; (3) the Triennial Convention, which was organized in 1814; (4) fellowship in the Baptist World Alliance;

(5) A common witness to religious liberty as expressed through the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; (6) The Baptist Jubilee Advance emphasis; (7) similar roots in the doctrine of the church; and (8) a common task of evangelism, education, missions and influence on American society.

The states represented in the conference were Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, Texas, Florida and the District of Columbia.

The addresses delivered to the Conference on Baptist Unity and the reports of the sections will be printed and distributed to Baptist executives and editors in both the American and Southern Baptist Conventions. A wider distribution of the brochure is also planned by the committee.

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Home Board Appoints 6  
At Student Convention

(11-1-62)

GRIFFIN, Ga. (BP)--Six missionaries were appointed by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention during the Georgia Baptist Student Convention.

C. G. Cole, Atlanta, president of the Home Mission Board, gave the statement of purpose for the missionaries, who later gave personal testimonies in the service. It was the first time such a service has been held during a student convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell F. Lawson were appointed during the service for work at the Good Will Center in Louisville, Ky. Mrs. Lawson, a native of Lodi, Miss., holds a bachelor of divinity degree from Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Lawson has a bachelor of arts degree from Gannon College, Erie, Pa., and a master of social work degree from Tulane University, New Orleans.

Named as a social worker at Sellers Home and Adoption Center, New Orleans, was Mrs. Anne Prather Huber native of Opelika, Ala. Her education includes a bachelor of arts degree from Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Ala., and a master's in social work from Tulane University.

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Clifford Bruffey, originally from Buckhannon, W. Va., was appointed for deaf work in Florida. In addition to schooling at Romey, W. Va., at the School for the Deaf, he holds a bachelor of arts degree from Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C., and a bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Chosen for work with National Baptists (Negroes) was Lacy Solomon, native of Pine Bluff, Ark. His educational background includes a bachelor of arts degree from Butler College, Tyler, Tex., and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Robert B. Wilson, native of Flint, Mich., was appointed as state superintendent of missions to do pioneer mission work in Detroit, Mich. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, S. C., and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Glendon McCullough, Atlanta, secretary for personnel of the Home Mission Board, made the introductions of the missionary appointees. Courts Redford, executive secretary of the board, made the presentation of appointment certificates and the charge to the missionaries.

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Louisville Announces  
Merger Degree Plan

(11-1-62)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here will offer majors in church social work and missions in its master of religious education degree program.

Dean Allen W. Graves of the school of religious education said this is a result of the merger of the seminary and Carver School of Missions and Social Work next door. Both are agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new major areas of study are partially the result of a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board study showing a need for 600 church social workers, and of recent Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Board appointments in religious education career fields.

The new degree majors to be offered for the first time next fall will include 22 semester hours in Bible, theology and church history; 20 hours in religious education; 22 hours in either church social work or missions and related fields, and two hours of church history, Graves said.

The merger of Carver School and the seminary will probably be officially approved by a vote of the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention. Two consecutive years of voting by the Convention are necessary for approval. The first vote was taken at the 1962 Convention.

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Folks and Facts.....

(11-1-62)

.....Leonard J. Curtis of DeLand, Fla., emeritus professor of law at Stetson University (Baptist) there, celebrated his 100th birthday Oct. 28. Curtis had already retired from the University of Arizona faculty when Stetson beckoned in 1939. He taught at Stetson till 1955. (BP)

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