

November 21, 1962

A. Hamilton Reid
To Retire Jan. 1

MONTGOMERY (BP)--A. Hamilton Reid, for the past 18 years executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention here, has announced his retirement Jan. 1.

Reid observed his 50th year as a Baptist preacher this fall. During the years he served in the top Baptist post in the state, financial receipts for the Alabama Baptist Cooperative Program increased from \$349,272 in 1944 to \$3,398,552 in 1962.

At the time Reid assumed the office of executive secretary in 1945, most of the Baptist promotional work was centered in the Sunday school and Training Union departments. Since that time the following departments of work have been added: student work, Brotherhood, Negro work, ministers' retirement, associational missions, evangelism, church music, promotion and public relations.

Reid also helped to establish the Alabama Baptist Foundation.

He led the denomination in the building of a new campus for Howard College, the Baptist school located in Birmingham. Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly near Talladega was purchased at a cost of about \$65,000.

In 1961, the Alabama convention began the new Baptist college in Mobile which opens its doors in the fall of 1963. A new Baptist state office building will be ready for occupancy in Montgomery early in 1963.

A. Hamilton Reid was born Oct. 17, 1892, near Scottsboro, Ala., and as a boy had a strong desire to "see what was on the other side of those North Alabama mountains." One of ten children, he attended high school at Scottsboro and went one year to the Howard College Academy before entering the regular Howard College program. He graduated from Howard with the bachelor of arts degree in 1917.

In college, Reid was a debater and was president of the student government his senior year. For two years he was a high school principal before attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he received the master of theology degree.

For six years, Reid was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Ala. During this time he was on the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board, and served as chairman of the state committee on evangelism.

At Sylacauga he met Ruby May Vardaman, a public school piano teacher from Andalusia, Ala. They married in 1926.

In 1918, he became pastor of South Avondale Baptist Church, Birmingham. He was moderator of the Birmingham Baptist Association, and president of the Alabama Sunday School Convention for two years.

He was vice-president of Howard College from 1940-45. In this period he served two years as president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and headed a campaign which paid off \$600,000 in debts owed by the denomination.

Oklahoma Changes Lease Policy On Hospitals

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--The 1962 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will not renew leases of public-owned hospitals after they expire.

This was voted here after messengers received a report from a 20-member special committee on church-state separation. The committee recommended present leases of hospitals owned by city or county governments be honored through their present term, then not renewed.

The Oklahoma convention now operates six such hospitals. The first lease expiration date comes in 1976. Before the convention was asked to operate these hospitals, four of them were constructed with federal grants and with municipal bonds and other income.

In the future, according to this action, the convention is to confine its hospital operation to those it owns or to those it may lease "that do not have tax money involved." The report, adopted, also provides the convention just pay a "fairly appraised price" if it should purchase any "tax-built or government-owned hospital."

The convention owns and operates 10 hospitals, four not involved in the new leasing policy.

The committee report affirming the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention statement on religious liberty was also adopted. It declares that church and state should be kept separate.

The report, on other aspects of the church-state situation, said:

1. "No legal or technical violation" of the principle is involved in borrowing federal funds for construction. The committee felt federal loans do not constitute a subsidy.
2. The convention and its institutions should borrow funds from private sources "whenever the terms are comparable" with federal loans.
3. No convention agency should accept free services from government agencies, such as road grading.

The convention's resolutions pertained to action of a seminary trustee board, to belief in the Bible, to Christian citizenship, and to Sunday business.

M. J. Lee, pastor, First Baptist Church, Guymon, was elected president. The 1963 convention will meet Nov. 12-14 in Oklahoma City.

The record \$2.7 million Cooperative Program budget passed for 1963 will send 41 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention, compared with 40 per cent forwarded previously.

One resolution reaffirmed "our faith without mental reservation or other subterfuge in the validity of the Bible, the word of God." It commended trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, for "their faithfulness in carrying out the instructions of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Trustees recently fired Professor Ralph H. Elliott, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, after his book, "The Message of Genesis," brewed a controversy in the SBC.

The Oklahoma action also said Baptists of that state expect all literature, teachers (in Baptist institutions), preachers and convention institutions to "be above reproach relative to loyalty to the immutable, eternal and infallible word of God."

On Christian citizenship, the resolution encouraged "good men" to take part in civic and government affairs. It asked "our pastors, churches and leaders to refrain from personal, public, political endorsement of political candidates."

Businessmen who "abstain from commercial sales and services on the Lord's Day" were commended.

Mississippi Speaks
On Education Matters

JACKSON (BP)--The 1962 Mississippi Baptist Convention here passed two resolutions concerning its educational institutions.

One instructed convention colleges to "use Baptists on their faculties whenever practical without lowering the quality of their teaching."

The second instructed the president "to appoint a special representative committee to study all facets of government help to our Baptist colleges and hospitals and report back to the next convention as regards government funds that may be requested or expected by these institutions."

A resolution offered on "human relations and modern tensions" was tabled. It said, in part, "We desire a more realistic portrayal of our Christian human relationships be expressed...We affirm an intelligent good will toward all men everywhere and ...we believe in the solution of all our problems by rightful means."

Given as explanation for tabling it was this: "Any resolution at this time regarding this matter would be open to all types of interpretations and misinterpretations on the local and national level."

The convention abolished its social service commission "because its work is now being carried on through other channels."

The work of the commission, that of supervising in a broad sense, the work of the children's village, the state Baptist hospital and the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, has been taken over by the trustees of these institutions, according to the new state constitution, eliminating further need of the commission.

The commission was not a policy-making group and its work had no connection with the public or human relations program of the convention.

Dr. Russell Bush Jr., Columbia dentist, was elected president of the convention. Meeting always in Jackson, its 1963 session will be there Nov. 12-14.

The record Cooperative Program budget for the convention's new year was passed. It is \$2,786,000. Of it, \$919,500 will be for causes supported through the Southern Baptist Convention.

In other matters, Mississippi Baptists:

1. Approved relocation of the Baptist children's village from one site in Jackson to another.
2. Gave authority to the convention board to select the site for the new state Baptist office building. This rescinds a previous action designating the present office building site.
3. Adopted a temperance report urging liquor law enforcement.

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New Mexico Observes
Twin Anniversaries

(11-21-62)

ROSWELL, N.M. (BP)--New Mexico Baptists celebrated twin anniversaries at their 1962 convention here.

It was the 50th year of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico and Harry P. Stagg of Albuquerque has been the convention's executive secretary half that time.

The jubilee session of the convention passed resolutions proclaiming the nature of its belief in the Bible and the New Testament church, and regarding federal tax funds loaned or granted to Baptist agencies.

It adopted a Cooperative Program goal for the new fiscal year of \$560,000 with 27 per cent routed to the Southern Baptist Convention for worldwide work.

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Carl R. Scott, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Clovis, was elected convention president and the convention picked Tucumcari for 1963 convention Nov. 12-14.

A pageant and motion picture helped depict the 50 years of work by the New Mexico convention. Stagg's brother and brother-in-law, both well-known Baptist leaders in other states, attended to help celebrate his 25th year.

They were W. L. Stagg, Alexandria, secretary of stewardship and missions for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and C. Vaughan Rock, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix.

In his presidential address, outgoing President R. A. Long of Roswell referred to Biblical interpretation. Said he: "If a man says he sees the Bible as a collection of myths, as far as I am concerned he has denied the inspiration of the scriptures...."

"What fruit has liberalism produced among us? It has produced a creeping spiritual paralysis. It has smothered the evangelistic flame."

One of the convention's resolutions followed suit. It declared:

"Be it resolved that we reaffirm our belief that the Bible is the word of God without myth or error, that it is sufficient for all matters of religious faith, practice, belief and instruction;

"That membership in a New Testament church is based only upon an experience of repentance and faith with confession of Jesus as Savior, followed by baptism, that is immersion, of the believer."

Concerning public tax money and Baptists' position about it, New Mexico Baptists resolved:

"That we as Baptists maintain a united front in rejecting all public tax funds, federal and otherwise, directly and indirectly, for all Baptist institutions, whether these be loans or grants."

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Louisiana Ceremony
Marks 150th Birthday

(11-21-62)

BATON ROUGE (BP)--The Louisiana Baptist Convention marked its 150th birthday with special ceremonies during its 1962 session here.

A caravan of automobiles and chartered buses carried over 700 messengers to Franklinton, La., 70 miles away, site of the first Baptist church in what is now the state of Louisiana.

Half Moon Bluff Baptist Church was organized Oct. 12, 1812. The Louisiana convention gave special recognition to Mississippi Baptists for their help in launching Baptist work in Louisiana.

The log church at Half Moon Bluff has been rebuilt. J. D. Grey, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, was the main speaker at the historical service conducted there.

Throughout the sessions of the convention, ladies were dressed in period costumes to focus attention on the anniversary event.

Other speakers to the Louisiana 1962 meeting were Gov. Jimmy Davis of Baton Rouge and Paul Harvey, Chicago, news commentator for a nationwide broadcasting system.

The convention adopted a \$2-3/4 million Cooperative Program budget for the coming year. The Southern Baptist Convention portion of this is 31.4 per cent.

Luther B. Hall, Farmerville minister, was reelected president. The next annual meeting will be held Nov. 12-14 at Lake Charles.

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Alabama Out To Get
\$10 Million Endowment

MONTGOMERY (BP)--The Alabama Baptist State Convention voted here to embark on a drive to raise \$10 million in endowment funds for Alabama Baptist colleges in the coming decade.

Alabama Baptists support two colleges now in operation--Howard College at Birmingham and Judson College, for women, at Marion--and will soon have a third to open, at Mobile.

Outgoing President Howard M. Reaves of Mobile, in his address to messengers, asked Christian people in Alabama to take a stand for law and order in any racial crisis which may arise.

He emphasized he spoke only as an individual. He said he thought he expressed the beliefs and feelings of tens of thousands of Christians of all denominations in saying to Alabama's incoming governor:

"If and when days of tension come to Alabama, as they came some weeks ago to Mississippi, we look to you as the chief executive of the state to take a stand for law and order."

In response, Gov.-Elect George Wallace told the convention Alabama will face many problems in the coming years.

Wallace renewed two campaign pledges: (1) "to rid the state of liquor agents," and (2) "to try to set a good example for the youth of the state by abolishing the use of alcoholic beverages in any function sponsored by your governor, either at the mansion or otherwise during the next four years."

"I need your prayers and help," the governor-elect added.

Leon Macon, Birmingham, editor of the Alabama Baptist, was elected president of the convention. Its next meeting will be Nov. 12-14, 1963 in Birmingham.

A recommendation was also passed which could result in a branch of the Alabama Baptist Children's Home being established in northern Alabama.

Retiring Convention Executive Secretary A. H. Reid of Montgomery was given a new automobile, a cash love gift and additional retirement benefits. A committee to nominate Reid's successor may have a report at the next state executive board meeting.

The Southern Baptist Convention will receive 35 per cent of the 1963 Cooperative Program budget of \$3,544,000.

The convention presented two religious journalism awards. One went to W. M. Anderson of the Troy Messenger, published in Troy, Ala. The other went to Claude Keathley, religion editor of the Birmingham News.

In other addresses, SBC President Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City said an "all out witness for Christ" is the only way to destroy communism, while W. A. Criswell warned of the "marching drive of Romanism" in Latin America. Criswell is pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

In his address, Harvey called on Baptists to be less afraid of offending someone, and hence fearful of taking some action, lest it be considered offensive.

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'Genesis Account
True,' Says Arizona

(11-21-62)

TUCSON, Ariz. (BP)--Resolutions passed by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention here concerned accuracy of the book of Genesis and prejudice of men toward one another.

The Convention also adopted a Cooperative Program budget for the next 12 months of \$527,589. Eighteen per cent of it will be shared with the Southern Baptist Convention for world causes.

The convention expects an income from all sources--Cooperative Program and other--of \$1.2 million for the year.

Ed J. Packwood of Phoenix, a layman, was reelected convention president. The next convention, Nov. 19-21, 1963, will convene in Phoenix.

A third resolution called Baptists to prayer because "the present world situation is so critical." It said "man's efforts to reach a solution seem so hopeless...that our people be called to prayer as an unceasing activity on behalf of those who hold a piece of the world in their hands."

Regarding doctrine, the convention resolved:

"Whereas during the past year there has been some theological confusion among Southern Baptists as regards the accuracy and literalness of the Bible...this convention affirms its position of belief in the Bible as the absolute, unerring and infallible word of God to man and especially our belief that the Genesis account is the true and accurate word of God."

On man's dealings with other men, it said:

"We believe in the dignity of all men and that prejudice, whether it be social, racial, political or economic, is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ... We prayerfully suggest that the members of our churches walk circumspectly in the world, be just in our dealings and exemplary in our deportment."

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November 21, 1962

President Seeks Road Around Religious Issue

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The Kennedy Administration will attempt to toss the "religious issue" in education into the laps of the states in the battle for federal aid to education in the new Congress.

Also the Administration will seek to avoid the roadblock of "federal control" of education by working out a system of grants to the states for their educational projects.

The Administration will hit fast and hard for its education bills early in the new session of Congress, according to Anthony J. Celebrezze, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

In the past the two major stumblingblocks to federal aid to education have been aid to parochial schools and charges of possible federal control of local schools. Although the Administration's plans are still on the drawing board, it is reported that the idea is for a planning grant program for the states in which they work out their own educational needs from the federal government.

In this way the states would have to wrestle with the problems of separation of church and state and would keep the major responsibility for decisions in this area out of Washington.

A number of proposals for educational aids are being worked on, according to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. These include an expansion of the student loan program of the National Defense Education Act, increase in the number of Defense Education graduate scholarships, extension of the summer teacher institutes to cover all subjects, and an expansion of the Library Services Act.

The drive for federal education legislation will include all levels of schooling, from elementary through college and professional training. Definite programs will have to await announcements of proposals both from the Administration and from the Congress.

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D. C. Baptists Approve Court Prayer Decision

(11-21-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The United States Supreme Court was commended "for restraining governmental agencies from undertaking the formulation of prayers for the American children and the American people," by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention at its annual meeting in Washington, D. C., November 19-20.

Budget proposals for next year include an increase of \$31,248.00 for the World Mission Program making a total of \$455,358.04. Of the total amount \$98,098.26 will go to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention and \$46,704.93 will go to the Unified Budget of the American Baptist Convention.

B. Ross Morrison, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Wheaton, Maryland, was elected as president for 1963. Fred B. Rhodes, Jr. is vice-president.

Members of the Convention were urged to pray for the state convention presidents in their restudy of the Southern Baptist Convention statement of faith. This committee will report to the next Southern Baptist Convention.

M. Chandler Stith, executive secretary of the Convention, was praised in a resolution which stated, "We deeply appreciate the untiring way in which our Executive Secretary has given of himself and express our heartiest congratulations upon his completion of twenty-five years as a pastor and secretary in our Convention. A

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special tribute to him as he approaches the twentieth anniversary as the Executive Secretary of the D. C. Baptist Convention."

The next meeting of the convention will be held November 18-19, 1963 at the National Memorial Baptist Church. William Scurlock, pastor of the Takoma Park Baptist Church, will preach the annual sermon.

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AID Says It Gives
No Help To Churches

(11-21-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Agency for International Development (AID), the United States agency for foreign aid programs, says that "AID does not provide assistance to churches." Also Fowler Hamilton, retiring administrator, says, "it does not provide aid to advance any religious teaching."

These assertions were made in a new policy statement by AID giving guidelines for U. S. foreign aid programs through religious affiliated institutions. The new statement was set forth in a letter from Mr. Hamilton to Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D., N. M.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

At the same time AID released a study of current foreign aid projects and contracts that involve religious institutions and agencies. There was no information on past programs. It is the position of AID that it is carrying out policies spelled out in legislation passed by the Congress every year since 1947.

After outlining tests for every foreign aid project, Mr. Hamilton added two more tests for projects that might be "necessary or appropriate" through church agencies. These conditions are:

1. United States foreign assistance funds may not be provided for the advancement of sectarian religious purposes, and

2. No funds may be expended, nor any project undertaken, without prior assurance and built-in guarantees that there will be absolutely no discrimination on religious grounds in the matter of who will benefit.

Church agencies become involved in only three areas of foreign assistance programs, according to Mr. Hamilton. These are (1) in distribution of surplus foods to the needy overseas, (2) in contracts for training and technical assistance with United States institutions and organizations, and (3) in assistance to education, health and social welfare in some of the less-developed countries.

"In some foreign countries schools and colleges founded by missionaries or having some connection with a religious body, are the only resource through which to work," Mr. Hamilton explained.

The problem faced by United States assistance programs in some countries is that of "working in a society without our tradition of separation of church and state," he stated.

However, the AID administrator continued, "No assistance will be provided to public institutions of this kind without guarantees that anyone may attend and that no one is forced to take part in religious practices objectionable to him." He added, "Where additional guarantees seem advisable, these will be secured."

In the 1962 distribution of surplus foods to foreign countries 70 per cent was handled by agencies with religious affiliations. These include Catholic Relief Service, Church World Service, Lutheran World Relief, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Assemblies of God, Unitarian Service Committee and Hadassah.

American voluntary agencies for the distribution of surplus food must register with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid. They also must be approved by the committee. About half, 24 out of 46, of the voluntary agencies now registered are church-related.

Annually about 6,000 foreign nationals are brought to the United States for training and technical assistance. Of the institutions the government uses for this purpose 44 are church-related. These include Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Friends, Jewish, Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, and Mormon.

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Although the AID study did not list all of the schools by name it pointed out that two universities had been used more than others in the U. S. training programs. They are American University (Methodist), and Georgetown University (Roman Catholic), both in Washington, D. C.

Of the 107 technical assistance contracts with United States colleges for work overseas only two involve church schools. They are Georgetown University (Catholic) and Earlham College (Society of Friends), Richmond, Ind.

Technical assistance contracts with voluntary service organizations involved only six church agencies out of a total of 792 contracts in force June 30, 1962. However, five contracts are with International Voluntary Services, Inc. (interdenominational) for educational programs in Laos, Cambodia, Viet-Nam and Liberia.

In overseas projects involving education on the elementary, secondary, higher education, and professional levels a wide variety of church institutions are used by AID. These include Muslim, Islam, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Friends, Methodist and Presbyterian schools. In these schools religion is taught, but the AID study says that in the Islamic countries Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians are exempt. In the Catholic countries Protestants who object are excused from the religious instruction and worship, the report says.

The countries where current educational foreign aid programs through church schools are now in effect are Iran, Turkey, Colombia, Uganda, Kenya, Afghanistan, Chile, Congo, Ecuador, Korea, Liberia and the Philippines.

In defending its use of church agencies AID quoted freely from mandates from Congress. For instance, in 1948 a subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs reported as follows: "American voluntary agencies are an essential counterpart of foreign assistance programs conducted by this government.... They represent in part the interest of American religious groups in their co-religionists in other countries and in humanity in general."

The Act for International Development of 1961 stated, "it is the sense of Congress that the President, in furthering the purpose of this Act, shall use to the maximum extent practicable the services and facilities of voluntary non-profit organizations registered with and approved by the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid."

Mr. Hamilton in his letter to Sen. Anderson said that "this Congressional policy reflects two facts:

1. "Missionary efforts of all American religious bodies have for decades been the major means for expressing, on a people-to-people basis, the American citizen's concern for the welfare of his less fortunate fellowman in foreign countries, and
2. "Religious institutions in many foreign less-developed nations have borne the main share of the burdens of humanitarian effort in such fields as health, recreation, housing, education, and social welfare, etc."

The original Policy Determination No. 10, "Religious Organizations and the United States Aid Program," was adopted July 16. But after publicity and vigorous protests from religious groups throughout the nation it was withdrawn on August 21.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the impression was made by the first policy statement that sectarian interests would be helped by AID programs. However, he said, "in none of these cases are United States assistance funds going into the advancement of any sectarian religious purpose." The new policy statement and survey of projects is designed to uphold this viewpoint.



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