

December 1, 1962

**Baptists To Accelerate
Mission Effort At Home**

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist mission efforts in the United States will be accelerated in an effort to meet "alarming trends, changes, and conditions" now affecting the nation.

The announcement came at the annual meeting of the Convention's Home Mission Board here, but the adoption of a record \$5,025,000 operating budget indicated the work would be shared by the 28 state Baptist conventions.

The mission board projects its work through the offices of the state conventions, as 26 of the state groups share in financing on a percentage basis and the state forces direct the work of most of the 2,074 missionaries.

In presenting the budget, Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary-treasurer of the board, called attention to "a few of the great problems" faced by the nation and listed programs and ministries mission forces either had or needed to meet them.

He listed 15 problems which included the nation's emphasis on material values, sensuality and immorality; an increase in crime; the growth of non-Christian religions; apathy in personal soul-winning; urban growth; population movement; increase in language groups; growing number of non-resident church members; and large areas unreached by Southern Baptists.

The budget provided \$90,000 for the board's division of chaplaincy which works with the military, institution, industrial, hospital and military personnel.

The major share of the budget went to the division of missions, \$3,770,000, which covers work with National Baptists (Negro), survey and special studies, work in states where Southern Baptists are not numerous and are just beginning, student missions, literacy, town and country missions, church development efforts, city mission projects, and language groups ministries.

Another \$185,000 was distributed to the division of evangelism which promotes methods of mass and personal witnessing by the denomination's churches. Leadership by the division has resulted in Southern Baptists' baptizing an average of more than 400,000 converts annually for a number of years.

An additional \$185,000 will finance the work of the board in education and promotion in conferences, printed material, visuals and special meetings.

The remaining funds will be used for loans, administration and special projects. Additional funds will be provided for capital needs.

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**His Sermon Preparation
Didn't Cover Delivery**

(12-1-62)

WAIPAHU, Hawaii (BP)--His instruction at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary didn't prepare Don Nicholson for the events which he faced Thanksgiving Day here.

Busy delivering his early morning holiday devotional over a local radio station, Nicholson and the announcer on duty were interrupted by a frantic knocking on the studio door.

A couple outside was fast losing their race to the hospital with the stork. The announcer closed out the program with quiet music while Nicholson left with the couple.

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The back seat of the couple's sedan was used as a makeshift delivery room to greet the arrival of a baby girl. When the ambulance arrived 20 minutes later, Nicholson had already given the customary spank to the infant and had wrapped her warmly in an old and tattered quilt.

Nicholson, a native of Brownfield, Tex., is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Waipahu.

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Norway Baptist School
Welcomes State Funds

(12-1-62)

OSLO (BP)--The Baptist Folk High School in Oslo, Norway, has been promised financial support from the state, the Norwegian Baptist paper, "Banneret," announces. This is apparently welcomed by school and denominational leaders.

The government aid is expected to cover all teachers' salaries, materials and administration costs. The boarding house, where both Folk High School pupils and students of the Norwegian Baptist Theological Seminary live, will continue to be supported by the Baptist Union.

State support offers new opportunities for the school, "Banneret" states. A permanent staff of teachers is made possible, whereas part time volunteers did much of the teaching previously. A course for youth leaders is planned, as well as practical training in such fields as photography and motor mechanics. A modern kitchen for instruction in cooking is under construction.

The school started in 1958 with 28 pupils. Baptists raised funds for initial buildings, with considerable assistance from Southern Baptists and American Baptists in the U. S. A.

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Mission Board Studies
Puerto Rico Request

(12-1-62)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has postponed for further study the starting of mission work in Puerto Rico, an island commonwealth of the United States in the Caribbean.

The request for assistance came from three Baptist churches in Puerto Rico which are affiliated with Southern Baptists through the Florida Baptist Convention.

They wanted assistance in a ministry to the 2-1/2 million people of the island, most of whom are Roman Catholics. The island is only two hours by jet from Miami.

The Home Mission Board is involved since the Convention has instructed it to develop a mission program for the United States and its territories. There is also the possibility that Puerto Rico may soon vote to choose between commonwealth status, statehood or independence.

"We are giving serious consideration to providing some assistance," commented Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the board's division of missions.

"No final decision is contemplated until more complete survey information is in hand and conferences have been held with representatives of other Baptist groups serving in the area," he said.

Rutledge indicated the work, if done, would be through the language groups ministries department, since Spanish is the dominant language, although English is widely used.

Puerto Rico, controlled by Spain until the Spanish-American War in 1898, has recently had its economy to boom, raising living standards and stopping much of the out-migration which earlier sent many of its residents to New York and other mainland areas.

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The economy rests upon a growing industry, farming, tourism and fishing. Its major cities are San Juan with 432,377 people and Ponce with 114,286.

Paul A. Meigs, Jacksonville, Florida Convention evangelism secretary, visited Puerto Rico in late 1960 to talk with Baptists there. Two Baptist churches existing at that time were organized as a result of transfer of military personnel to bases on the island.

These two English-speaking churches were in turn sponsoring missions among the Spanish-speaking population.

The Florida Convention board of missions voted salary aid in December, 1960 for two churches in Puerto Rico--the Metropolitan Baptist Church of San Juan and Borinquen Baptist Church of Aguadilla. These were cooperating with the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Baptist Association of churches.

The American Baptist (Convention) Home Mission Society reported in 1961 continuing conversations about its work there functioning as a state convention. Among the work supported by the American Convention is a seminary in Rio Piedras.

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2 Groups Schedule
Highway Evangelism

(12-1-62)

By the Baptist Press

Baptists in two states have announced plans for highway evangelism.

With an eye to increasing church attendance, members of the Tulsa (Okla.) Baptist Brotherhood have voted to underwrite the cost of billboards on every major highway entering that city.

They will say, "The Southern Baptist churches of Tulsa urge you to attend your church this Sunday."

And in Jackson, Miss., it was reported six highway signs will be erected in the near future. Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention, said they will be located near state lines to greet motorists entering Mississippi.

Eleven by 24 feet in size, in three colors with reflectorized material to be seen at night, they will have both a picture and a written message.

The background picture will be a map of the world with a church opening into it. Across the top, "Sharing Christ with the Whole World" will appear. Near the bottom of the display signs will be written, "Mississippi Baptists--476,395 members in 1820 churches."

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Family Play Leading
Ordination Roles

(12-1-62)

ELDORADO, Ark. (BP)--When Tom Elliff, freshman at Ouachita (Baptist) College, was ordained to the ministry here, it turned out to be a family affair.

Tom's paternal grandfather, A.P. Elliff of Fordyce, Ark., led the questioning of the candidate. A. P. Elliff is a retired district missionary who served at Rayville, La.

The candidate's father, J. T. Elliff of Little Rock, preached the ordination sermon. The father is director of religious education for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

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The youth's maternal grandfather, T. A. Carter of Warren, Ark., a Baptist deacon, served on the ordaining council. His uncle, Garland Murry, a Baptist minister at Fordyce, led the ordination prayer.

Tom Elliff is president of the freshman class at the Arkadelphia, Ark., college. He announced his call to the ministry last summer while serving as youth director for East Main Baptist Church here, site of the ordination service.

The newly ordained minister has been called to serve the Southside Baptist Mission at Warren, sponsored by Warren's First Baptist Church.

Another Elliff, Tom's sister, Sandra, a senior at Ouachita, is engaged to a ministerial student and plans to marry him next summer.

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Caudill Cites Progress
In Letter From Cuba

(12-1-62)

ATLANTA (BP)--"The Lord leads us one step at a time," reported Herbert Caudill of Havana to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Caudill, superintendent of missions in Cuba, was summarizing the past year's work on the island. His report listed lessons learned from recent experiences.

This was the third year for Caudill to miss the annual meeting of the Home Mission Board and to submit his report in writing.

He and five other Southern Baptist missionaries in Cuba have not left the island for fear of being unable to return. They constitute the largest Protestant mission force still in Cuba.

"We have suffered losses," Caudill said. They came primarily from the numbers fleeing Cuba. He pointed out, however, that "Others have come along to fill the breach."

The board budgeted \$230,000 for work in Cuba next year, a reduction of \$30,000 because of the decrease in workers, who have left the island.

Southern Baptists are also providing relief and resettlement for many of the 150,000 refugees who have left Cuba. Mission forces in Miami report 111 families with 285 people resettled, mostly since August. The board set aside \$50,000 for this task next year.

A national organization has just been completed by the denomination, with committees in most states securing relief items and handling resettlement.

Caudill noted in his report that Sunday schools had been less affected by losses than other organizations in the church.

"This is exactly what we might have expected," said L. M. Gonzalez of Las Villas, president of the Cuban Baptist Convention. "In Sunday school we teach the Bible, and that is where we are best carrying out the work that we are supposed to do."

Latest figures available indicated Southern Baptists had 84 churches and 201 missions in the four western provinces of Cuba, where approximately four million people live. (The American Baptist Convention formerly directed work in the two other provinces.)

Attendance is up in the churches, Caudill reported. He credited a "sense of urgency" with creating more interest in God's word.

"Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds," Caudill continued. He said no physical harm has come to any of the workers. "There have been some minor problems," he said, "but there have never been times when things were absolutely peaceful and prosperous."

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Work with young people and younger students is continuing through camps and student centers. In addition, the Baptist Theological Institute in Havana has 33 regular students--25 men and eight women. Eight of these are first-year students.

Plagued for a while by a water shortage, the Institute now has a well which is expected to meet this need. Improvements have also been made on grounds of the school.

Pre-institute work is being done to aid those unprepared to enter the school. Eight-week short courses have also been sponsored by the Institute in an effort to better meet the demand for church workers. Since 1951, some 230 persons have taken these.

"There are more than 40 young people in our churches who have indicated that they hope to come to the Institute," Caudill said.

Radio programs joined in by more than a dozen preachers and individual services held in homes by lay preachers are other active areas of Baptist work in Cuba.

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Power Executive Heads
Baptist Mission Board

(12-1-62)

ATLANTA (BP)--C. G. Cole, an executive for the Georgia Power Co. in Atlanta, was reelected president of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting here. He has been president since 1955.

The mission board annually spends over \$5 million for mission work in the United States, Cuba and Panama. It employs more than 2,000 missionaries.

Cole has been president of the board during its greatest period of expansion. The budget has increased from \$2,385,000 in support of only 1,099 missionaries in 1954.

Also elected to serve with Cole were W. A. Duncan, a retired Baptist minister of Atlanta, as vice-president; Charles R. Standridge, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tifton, Ga., also as vice-president; Mrs. Sherwood L. Astin of Atlanta, as recording secretary; and J. C. Daniel, pastor, Fortified Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, as assistant recording secretary.

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6th Youth Conference
May Exceed 3000 Goal

(12-1-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Attendance at the 6th Baptist Youth World Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, next July probably will exceed the goal of 3000 originally set by its Baptist World Alliance sponsors.

Robert S. Denny, youth secretary of the Alliance, told the administrative committee in its meeting here that travel companies already have reserved 4100 beds in Beirut hotels for the accommodation of conference delegates.

But he warned reservations made by travel companies can be made "firm" only by early registration of young people going to the conference. He urged that registrations, either directly through the Alliance or through cooperating travel companies, should be made soon. "Preferably by January," he said.

The travel companies are arranging tours which combine Holy Land travel with attendance at the youth meeting, scheduled for July 15-21. Denny said a special plane is being chartered by Baptist young people in southern Africa. Automobile caravans are being planned from various parts of Europe. More than 100 tours are being operated from the United States.

Denny said attendance of young people between 17 and 30 years of age is being especially encouraged.

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The Alliance administrative committee also looked to the next general meeting of world Baptists--the 11th Baptist World Congress at Miami Beach, June 25-30, 1965. A committee composed of Theodore F. Adams, past president, Richmond, Va.; V. Carney Hargroves, vice-president, Philadelphia; and Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary, Washington, was named to draft a Congress program outline for consideration at a March 18-19 meeting of the committee.

A proposed 1963 operating budget of \$132,400 for the Alliance's worldwide program was trimmed to \$125,000, to bring it into line with anticipated receipts for the year. The Alliance program is financed by contributions from participating Conventions.

Adolfs Klaupiks reported a flow of gifts from many parts of the world for relief assistance to survivors of an anti-Christian massacre in New Guinea last September. These funds are forwarded by the Alliance to Australian Baptist missionaries at work in New Guinea. Other relief assistance is being given to Baptists in Assam, India; the Congo, eastern Europe and Asia.

Hamburg, Germany, was selected as meeting place for the 1964 session of the Alliance executive committee. Those meetings on Aug. 17-21, 1964, will follow the triennial assembly of the European Baptist Assembly at Amsterdam, Aug. 12-16, 1964. Baylor University at Waco, Tex., has been named previously for the 1963 meeting of the executive committee on Aug. 21-25.

Baptist Press Photo

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Cutlines

1963 AGENDA--Planning the agenda for the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention are, from left, Ira C. Prosser of Lexington, Ky., who will direct the music; Herschel H. Hobbs, Convention president, from Oklahoma City, and J. Samuel Phillips, Lovington, N. M., chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business. The Convention will meet May 7-10 in Kansas City, Mo. (BP) Photo