

May 20, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

ORE.-WASH. BAPTISTS
TO PETITION CONVENTION

PORTLAND, Ore.--(BP)--The Executive Committee of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, headed by E. M. Causey, chairman and R. E. Milam, executive secretary, will petition the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in behalf of churches in Western Canada. They will ask that the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board and other Southern Baptist agencies be permitted to aid them in working with the churches in Canada. The Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention reads: "It is the purpose of the Convention 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."

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SBC MESSENGERS NOTE
MEMORIAL HOLIDAY

ST. LOUIS, Mo.--(BP)- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis need to remember that Monday, May 31, is a holiday and many of the stores and public services in St. Louis will be closed. Also, St. Louis is on daylight saving time which makes their clocks one hour faster than Central standard time.

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TEXAS GOVERNOR SCHEDULED
FOR PASTORS' CONFERENCE

AUSTIN, Tex.--(BP)--Governor Allan Shivers of Texas will speak on the opening night program of the Pastors' Conference in St. Louis, May 31.

Shivers will return to this country one day before the Conference from a tour of Korea being made by five state governors at the request of President Eisenhower. He will cut his trip short in order to return to St. Louis in time for the address.

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CAUTION:

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Agents of the "Southern Publishing Association," Nashville, Tenn., selling religious books from house-to-house are sometimes mistaken for agents of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Great care should be taken in purchase of their books, since they propose teachings not acceptable to most Baptist and protestant groups.

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MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERSHIP PLAN

BY: Gainer Bryan, Jr.

A positive program whereby a church may continue to minister to members who have entered the armed forces is now available through both the Sunday school and the Training Union.

Launched last year was the Military Service Membership plan of the Sunday school. Now in the June issue of the Training Union Magazine the wraps have been removed from the Training Union Military Service Membership plan.

A letter urging the use of these two plans was mailed in May to all pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention by James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer, Baptist Sunday School Board. July 4 was suggested as a date toward which the churches might work in getting these ministries underway.

To help in promoting the Sunday school and Training Union Military Service Membership plan, a poster was sent to all pastors. The poster depicts a young G.I. in battle dress, seated, Bible in hand, reading mail from home.

This mail consists of his Sunday school and Training Union quarterlies. An empty mailing envelope from his home church is at his feet. The basic feature of the plans of both organizations, namely, mailing the quarterlies to the absent servicemen is thus illustrated.

The caption on the poster reads, "More than 'Keeping in Touch' Keep 'em growing."

A concern for the spiritual needs of an estimated 350,000 Southern Baptist men and women in the armed forces and others who will serve in the years ahead led to the formulation of the two Military Service Membership plans.

"Surely every pastor and local church leader will want the home church to carry on a regular, permanent ministry to those of its own members who are enlisted in the defense of our nation during these uncertain days," Sullivan declared.

"It is appropriate to urge that every church put into effect the Military Service Membership plans of the Sunday school and Training Union by not later than Independence Day as practical expressions of this sorely needed ministry."

Free literature on the Sunday school Military Service Membership plan may be secured by writing your state Sunday school secretary. For literature on the Training Union plan write the Training Union Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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BAPTIST FOLKS AND FACTS!

.....The Baptist Standard, Texas state paper, reached an all time weekly circulation high of 278,213 on May 20.

.....Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., will observe its one hundred and third commencement May 24-26.

.....Mrs. George Elam, wife of former Training Union secretary for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, died recently in Albuquerque.

.....Camp Crestridge, a summer camp for girls at Ridgecrest, N. C., owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, is scheduled to open in 1955.

.....A luncheon for presidents of Southern Baptist educational institutions, and members of the Education Commission will be held June 4, 1:15 p.m., Dining Room 9, Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis, during the Southern Baptist Convention.

.....O. M. Seigler, Atlanta, Ga., and chairman of the Chaplains Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will leave Atlanta soon on a two-week tour of the European Theater.

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RELOCATING THE RADIO COMMISSION

BY: Reuben Alley
From the Religious Herald

Reports have come from Atlanta that the Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in session last week, approved by unanimous vote a recommendation to move the headquarters of the agency to Fort Worth. Because authority for making the transfer rests with the Convention, it is expected that the matter will be presented for action by that body at the meeting in St. Louis next month. The proposal by the Commission will probably come as a surprise to many people. The location of the Southern Baptist radio center does not seem to have received much consideration when the project began. That was natural in view of the circumstances. Under the leadership of the late S. F. Lowe the Commission started in a small way with local sponsorship in Atlanta. There it remained and grew into an important institution. Now, according to the report from the recent meeting, the Commission believes that a more central geographical location is desirable.

Several considerations, it seems, led members of the board to agree upon Fort Worth. First, a powerful station, which will be made available to the Commission, is located in that city. This will enable the Commission to broadcast directly to a wide area at considerable saving. The station is fully equipped with latest facilities for effective service. Second, it is reported that Baptist citizens of Fort Worth have offered large financial inducements, including the cost of moving, if the transfer is made. Third, the nearness of the proposed location to Southwestern Seminary appears to have been a factor of major importance when members of the board came to vote for the new site. It was suggested that other denominations have placed radio centers in the vicinity of institutions of learning so that musical talent and competent speakers might be immediately available. Moreover, it was suggested that many seminary students, or their wives, might be glad to fill secretarial positions with the Commission staff, and that proximity to the center will afford excellent opportunity for training seminary students in broadcasting. These seem to have been the determining reasons for choosing Fort Worth.

Before reaching an opinion upon this matter, however, it would be well for Southern Baptists to give thought to other aspects of the case. First, it should be determined that a change in locations is desirable. Atlanta is near the population center of the Convention, so that a broadcast from that city will
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probably reach more people directly than a similar broadcast from the Texas city. Assuming that a change should be made, at least two hindrances might be named against the location at Fort Worth. First, the Southern Convention already has two large agencies in Texas--the Relief and Annuity Board and Southwestern Seminary. A few months ago there was a serious suggestion that the office of the Baptist Foundation be moved to a Texas city. Obviously our Baptist brethren in Texas abound in Christian graces and enjoy vast accumulations of natural wealth. We who live in the eastern states are constantly thankful for evidences of these things. On the other hand, we are aware of dangers that might arise if these blessings are directed in a manner which might lead to a concentration of Southern Baptist institutions and agencies in one state. If the Radio Commission believes that a new site is desirable at the geographical center of the Convention, it should inquire about other cities like Oklahoma City and Little Rock. The Convention has not established headquarters of an agency in either Oklahoma or Arkansas. Second, the action of the Convention in placing its radio center at the door of one of the five seminaries might give rise to present misunderstanding and troublesome questions in the future. Each of the schools is in need of laboratory equipment for training students in radio and television technique. Installations are expensive. A problem might be presented if the Convention places these things at the disposal of one school without making provisions to supply comparable facilities for the others.

This important new matter should have careful study by the Executive Committee and then by the Convention. It seems regrettable that the suggestion did not come from the Radio Commission earlier in order to afford ample time for discussion.

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Reuben Alley is editor of the Religious Herald,
Baptist state paper of Virginia.

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VITAL ISSUES FOR SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

BY: J. Leo Garrett
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

1. How to distinguish between New Testament essentials and Baptist customs and traditions.
2. How to magnify the Baptist distinctives which make imperative a distinct Baptist witness without isolation from all fellowship with other Christians.
3. How to distinguish clearly between the Baptist heritage of religious freedom and non-creedalism and the encroachment of radical theological liberalism.
4. How to keep a strong biblical faith and message without succumbing to the tendency to make the "pet" interpretations of some the test of fellowship for all.
5. How to keep worship meaningful and evangelism fruitful without the sacrifice of either.
6. How to magnify both personal regeneration and the Christian life with its moral and social obligations.
7. How to maintain both effective evangelism and the reality of a regenerate church membership.
8. How to "tap" the material resources of Baptists for Christ without adopting an unbiblical doctrine of stewardship.
9. How to expand as a denomination without being undemocratic in polity.
10. How to keep the "home base" Christian and engage in a vigorous world mission advance.--BAPTIST PRESS