

February 1, 1963

Move Made To Withdraw  
Canada Messenger Issue

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--The Texas pastor who moved that Canadian messengers be seated at the annual Southern Baptist Conventions now wants to withdraw his motion.

It has been on the agenda for the SBC Executive Committee's winter meeting. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee from the 1962 Convention.

In a letter to Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, Nolan M. Kennedy of Amarillo asked to withdraw the question.

He said his action was based on a desire "to remove every possible hindrance to the Baptist Jubilee Advance..." Kennedy also said, "Some of us have become aware that the cause of the churches in Western Canada seeking recognition...is a factor which seems to be hindering fraternal relations with other Baptists and an injury to our Baptist Jubilee Advance."

The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, meeting here, voted "to concur in the request that this proposed amendment (to the SBC constitution) be withdrawn."

Jack W. McKay, pastor, Westwood Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta, made the motion at the Portland board meeting. A Canadian pastor, he is a member of the Oregon-Washington executive board.

Kennedy and the Oregon-Washington board wished to remove it "without prejudice." This means, in legal language, they may bring it up again at some future date.

Routh called Kennedy's move "a marvelous demonstration of Christian consideration. It is meant to create a real spirit of Baptist fellowship through the Jubilee Advance."

The group here added, "It should be pointed out that the executive board has every confidence in those Baptist churches in Western Canada that are affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington and feels that in time the Southern Baptist Convention will do well to recognize those churches and seat their messengers in the Convention."

The churches in Western Canada already send messengers to the annual Oregon-Washington conventions. The Oregon-Washington convention is holding its first annual meeting in Canada this year--Vancouver, British Columbia, was chosen.

Opposition to the seating of Canadian messengers at the SBC arose because of crossing the international boundary. Leaders of the Baptist Federation of Canada, a party in the Baptist Jubilee Advance, were among those protesting.

Routh pointed to the position taken by the SBC Committee on Canadian Baptist Cooperation. "It has stated repeatedly it felt greater progress could be made by working with all Baptist groups in Canada and in developing an indigenous convention. This is the policy of the SBC Foreign Mission Board."

How will the issue be dealt with now?

It is still a matter of Convention business. "The Executive Committee will have to give a report of some kind to the Convention at Kansas City on this matter," Routh said. It appeared likely, however, the Executive Committee would ask the Convention to grant Kennedy's request.

82 Finish Southern  
Seminary In Mid-Year

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Eighteen states and two foreign countries were represented among the 82 graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here at mid-year commencement. Five students received the doctor of theology degree and one student the doctor of religious education degree.

Over half the graduates received bachelor of divinity degrees from the school of theology. Thirteen graduates came from the school of religious education and 14 from the school of church music.

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Taylor, chief of U. S. Air Force chaplains, and a Southern Baptist, delivered the commencement address.

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400 Students Coming  
To Louisville Meeting

(2-1-63)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Thirty-five leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention will direct the annual Student Conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here March 1-3.

Approximately 400 students from Baptist colleges and state universities in the southeastern United States are expected to attend the mission-emphasis conference.

Participating in the three-day program will be Paul S. James, pastor, Manhattan Baptist Church, New York City; L. D. Johnson, pastor, Greenville, S. C., First Baptist Church; John R. Claypool, pastor, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville; and William M. Dyal Jr., associate secretary, department of missionary personnel, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond. All are alumni of Southern Seminary.

Missionaries and former missionaries to Brazil, Taiwan and Nigeria will talk with students about the work of the missionary, both at home and abroad. SBC Home Mission Board representatives and a Peace Corps official, Lloyd Wright, Washington, will also discuss their areas of service with interested students. Wright is a former Baptist Press editor.

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Alert Minister's Wife  
Saves Carpenter's Life

(2-1-63)

ATKINS, Ark. (BP)--The wife of a Baptist minister was credited with saving the life of an Arkansas man recently.

Mrs. John R. Hagan, whose husband is pastor of First Baptist Church, Atkins, happened on a highway accident near Atkins. She found a 45-year-old carpenter unconscious on the pavement. He had swallowed his tongue, completely shutting off his body air supply.

Mrs. Hagan, a registered nurse, put her knowledge to work quickly and effectively. She cleared his air passage with a borrowed comb, wrapped in a handkerchief, which she used as a tongue blade.

The carpenter soon began breathing again.

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5 Students Receive  
New Loan-Scholarships

NASHVILLE (BP)--Five students have been awarded the first loan-scholarships from the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here:

Each of the five has attended a Baptist college.

The estates of Mrs. M. May Robertson and Joseph L. Sheppard provided the funds from which the loan-scholarships come. The estates are administered by the Southern Baptist (Convention) Foundation.

Students who receive them plan to teach in Southern Baptist colleges. They use the money to study for their doctor's degrees. They repay the loan-scholarships by teaching in denominational schools, according to Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, commission executive secretary.

Each year of teaching forgives a part of the loan-scholarship. If a student fails to be placed on a Baptist college faculty, he must repay the loan-scholarship in cash.

The first five grants, of \$650 each, are for six months. Brantley said each of the students may apply for renewal in July, when the present grants expire. He said the commission hopes to have \$1500 per student per year available.

The total amount available for loan-scholarships should eventually reach over \$15,000 a year, perhaps \$20,000, Brantley added.

The five students getting the first funds are:

John Burton, son of Joe W. Burton, Nashville, editor of Home Life, and secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is working for his doctor's degree in physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

Walter B. Thompson, Atlanta, currently enrolled in the University of Georgia at Athens. He is working for a doctorate in economics.

Kenneth Lee Fox, currently on leave from Louisiana College (Baptist) in Pineville. He too is at the University of Illinois. His doctor's degree will be in accounting.

Logan Wright, Tulsa, Okla., enrolled at Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, for a doctorate in psychology. Wright was on the staff of Bethel College (Baptist) in Hopkinsville, Ky., previously.

Miss Gladys Bryant, Greenville, S. C., studying at Vanderbilt University here. She has a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and master of arts in history from Vanderbilt.

Burton and Thompson did their undergraduate study at Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn. Fox got his bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex.

Wright graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and Peabody. He has master's degrees from Golden Gate and Peabody.

Miss Bryant has a bachelor of arts degree from Furman University (Baptist), Greenville, S. C.

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### Annuity Board Reports 1962 Was Record Year

DALLAS (BP)--More than \$3,091,000 was paid to 5,792 ministers, church and denominational employees or their widows in 1962 by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board through its retirement program.

R. Alton Reed, executive secretary of the Board, highlighted this amount in his report to the trustees attending the board's 45th annual meeting here.

Reed said that total benefits paid by the board since its beginning in 1918 have increased to more than \$40,396,000.

"This past year, 1962, was the most successful year in the board's history in every respect," Reed told trustees attending the meeting.

In his report approved by the board, Reed pointed out that some 5,535 new certificates were issued in 1962, including 2,243 new participants in the Southern Baptist Protection Plan.

This was the largest number of new members ever to join the protection program during any one year in the board's history, Reed said. He credited the waiving of the delayed participation penalty last year for helping set this record.

Reed said funds held in trust for future payment to more than 25,000 Baptist ministers or denominational employees rose to \$105,400,192. The total amount increased by about \$12 million over 1961 figures.

By contrast, Reed said the relief roll decreased to 768 persons from the previous year's high of 826. Relief beneficiaries, who received \$212,800, are old ministers or their widows who did not have a chance to join the retirement program.

Reed also said that a survey of the board's organizational structure has been completed by Booz, Allen and Hamilton, a professional survey firm which has recommended organizational changes for several Southern Baptist agencies.

The new organization structure, which changes titles of a few board employees but does not affect the participant's policies, will be put into effect during 1963.

Attending the two-day meeting here were 18 trustees from the Dallas--Fort Worth area plus 37 trustees from 23 state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Executive secretaries from state Baptist conventions in Arkansas, Colorado, Oregon-Washington, Illinois, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Michigan, and Mississippi also attended.

The meeting closed with a speech by Wallace Bassett, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas. Bassett, the only living member who has been a trustee since the board's beginning in 1918, has served as president every year except two.

Bassett traced the 45 years of service the Annuity Board has given to Southern Baptists.

Annuity Board Re-elects  
Bassett As President

DALLAS (BP)--Wallace Bassett, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board during the trustees' 45th annual meeting here.

Bassett, the only living member who has been on the board since its beginning in 1918, has served as president for all except two years.

Re-elected as vice-presidents of the board were E. G. Brown, Ben C. Ball, and H. J. Blackwell, all of Dallas.

Executive officers of the board were also re-elected with new titles as recommended by a survey of the board's organizational structure by the firm, Booz, Allen and Hamilton.

The officers are: R. Alton Reed, executive secretary; Floyd B. Chaffin and L. Taylor Daniel, associate secretaries and directors of development; Fred W. Noe, associate secretary and director of investments plus treasurer ad interim; Owen Henley, assistant director of investments; and Mable H. McCartney, registrar and recording secretary.

Under the former organizational structure, Chaffin was associate secretary and public relations director; Daniel was associate secretary and director of relief, disability, and institutional plans; and Noe was Treasurer-Director of Investments.

During the final session of the trustees' meeting, Reed was presented with a color television set in appreciation of 10 years of service to the board as executive secretary.

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Dear James Letters  
Flood Baptist Paper

(2-1-63)

DALLAS (BP)--A Baptist editor here has an almost unprecedented problem--too much readership response to his weekly paper.

E. S. James, editor of the Baptist Standard, has been deluged with so many "Letters to the Editor" that he has been forced to change the paper's letter publication policy.

James estimates he receives more than 5,000 letters a year, an average of nearly 100 a week.

The flood of letters has prompted the editor to stop his eight-year practice of answering in some way every piece of mail that crosses his desk.

Under the paper's new policy, only correspondence addressed to the "Letters to the Editor Department" will be considered for publication. The best will be published, the others will be destroyed. Regular correspondence will, of course, be answered through the mail.

From the huge volume of letters the Standard received, only about 600 a year can be published. The editor answers nearly every subject in the full page devoted weekly to letters.

(more)

Spot readership surveys have revealed that the "letters page" is perhaps the best read feature of the weekly 370,000-circulation news-magazine published by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

James says the letters cover every conceivable subject, including such controversial matters as the race question, politics, the United Nations, separation of church and state, and theology.

"Some of them are mighty cantankerous," he said, "but I don't reject a letter for publication just because I don't agree with the writer."

On the contrary, the editor seems to delight his readers with clever, sometimes cutting replies to letters that he disagrees with--and that's probably the main reason the "letters page" is so well read.

James said the U. S. Government has helped solve his "too much mail" problem a little by raising the postage stamp price to a nickle. The volume of mail has decreased some since the postage increase, he explained.

After that statement, it's possible some joker might write a "letter to the editor" claiming that such government aid (cutting down the paper's mail volume) violates the historic Baptist position on church-state separation.

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Mission Seed Sown In '62  
Bear Fruit In '63 Offering

(2-1-63)

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--The Biblical law that one reaps what he sows was fulfilled here on the positive side when the first gift for the 1963 Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions came from seed sown during the 1962 emphasis.

Century-old First Baptist Church of Decatur, a mother and grandmother of a number of missions and churches in this heavily-populated section of Georgia, awoke last year to new responsibilities in nearby institutions.

The awakening was a part of the study of "Glimpses of Glory," one of the mission study books for the annual home mission emphasis, sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union.

The book tells of the birth of the Southern Baptist 30,000 Movement, and is written by the founder and present director of the project, C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C.

Pastor Dick Hall participated in some of the study sessions. He found an awareness of the need and an enthusiasm to meet it. He extended some of the presentations church-wide. Other organizations were enlisted within the church.

A staff member was assigned to guide in developing a ministry to people in institutions who could not go to church. The Brotherhood made a survey to discover what institutions needed a spiritual ministry, and eventually the church started five such missions.

One of these was at the Emory Convalescent Home, and the Woman's Missionary Union accepted the assignment. Four teams were formed, with one team going each Sunday to conduct the service.

The response of those at the home was reward enough for those who presented the services. "It sounds just like home," one said. "It's the best thing that happens here," another remarked.

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Baptist Press

A church member who teaches, plays the piano, and visits said, "It's th most worthwhile thing I do. It is definitely not a duty; it is a privilege. They need a message of love and comfort--that God hasn't forgotten them."

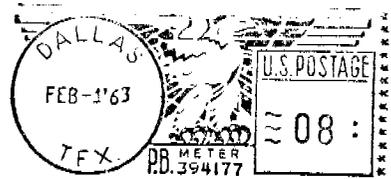
The owner of the home, definitely pleased with the project, wanted to do something in appreciation for what the church's ministry had meant to the people in the home. Thus came the check designated for the Home Mission offering for 1963.

But it's a toss up as to who receives the biggest blessing, those ministering or those receiving.

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