

February 28, 1963

Colorado, Northwest
Representatives Asked

NASHVILLE (BP)--Baptists in two state conventions have gone beyond the 25,000 membership mark. They are ready to have members from their areas elected to serve on Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

The two are the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington and the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

The Executive Committee of the SBC recognized the mark at the winter meeting here. It asked the SBC Committee on Boards be instructed to appoint persons from these conventions to serve on SBC agencies.

They will be named "in keeping with the charter provisions of the various agencies, and/or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention."

If past custom follows, the Committee on Boards will be ready to nominate them immediately if the 1963 Convention at Kansas City, Mo., acts favorably. The Convention must adopt the Executive Committee recommendation.

The Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington serves the two states. It also has some affiliated churches in western Canada, though there are 25,000 Southern Baptist church members without including the membership of Canadian churches.

The Canadian churches, while recognized by the Oregon-Washington body, may not send messengers to the annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Conventions nor have persons from their membership elected to places on SBC agencies.

(Visitors are welcome from all Baptist groups but cannot vote.)

The Colorado convention serves not only Colorado but also Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakotas and western Nebraska.

In a second action related to the Oregon-Washington convention, the Executive Committee concurred in a move to withdraw the Canadian messenger issue.

An amendment introduced at the 1962 Southern Baptist Convention in San Francisco would provide seating for messengers outside the United States. It was offered to benefit churches in western Canada.

The sponsor of the amendment and the executive board of the Oregon-Washington convention had previously supported its withdrawal without prejudice. The minister who presented the amendment--Nolan M. Kennedy of Amarillo, Tex.--said he wanted to withdraw it to foster harmony during the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

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Japan New Life Crusade
Remembered In Prayer

(2-28-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Japan Baptist New Life Movement was remembered in prayer by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention during its winter meeting here.

Members of SBC churches also were asked to pray for the Spring crusade in which Texas Baptists and the SBC Foreign Mission Board are working in cooperation with Japanese Baptists.

The resolution adopted by the Executive Committee read:

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"Because the New Life Movement in Japan offers such tremendous opportunity in the Far East through preaching and witnessing in so many areas and through the medium of radio and television, be it resolved that the Executive Committee in regular session in Nashville, Tennessee...join together in prayer and urge our church members to remember in their private devotions, prayer, and regular worship services the forthcoming New Life Movement."

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2 Programs Listed
For Annuity Board

(2-28-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Subject to Convention approval, two programs assigned the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will appear in the Convention's forthcoming program manual.

They are programs of management of retirement annuities and ministers' relief administration.

The two were approved by the SBC Executive Committee in its winter meeting here. They will be relayed to the messengers at the 1963 Convention in Kansas City, Mo., for approval.

Under the program of management of retirement annuities, the board has five tasks. The first is annuity management. Under this, it "conducts basic retirement plans for ministers and other vocational workers of the churches, the convention agencies, the general Baptist bodies and their agencies--in full and direct cooperation with the churches and the conventions."

It also offers supplemental retirement plans.

The second phase of this program is fund management. It is trustee of funds contributed through the retirement plans, "keeping always in mind that these funds are not its own but belong to the various Conventions, boards, agencies, and institutions, and to the thousands of men and women in whose names they are committed."

It invests these funds according to good business methods and standards of Christian stewardship.

Study and research is another area of the program of management of retirement annuities. The board studies the needs for retirement plans, keeping pace with the times in developing the plans. It tries to get the largest number of eligible participants signed up in the plans.

Its plans must be "consistent with accepted Southern Baptist practices."

Its informational service, another avenue, consists of a "limited literature service including a publication ("The Years Ahead")." This phase also includes replying to letters wanting information.

Its field services are carried on "in cooperation with the state conventions." It uses the field services to tell persons about the retirement plans.

The board's staff is available at national assemblies and Conventions to advise with churches and their workers about the plans.

Relief administration is the first section of the second program--that of ministers' relief administration.

It administers such funds as it receives to provide direct relief. It sets standards under which such relief is granted, consulting with state Baptist conventions and other groups in drawing the standards up.

It manages other endowment funds received for relief use. It prepares pamphlets and news articles telling of the board's role in providing ministers' relief.

The statement of its relationships, as contained in the proposed entry in the program manual, follows:

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"The Annuity Board is primarily a service agency, established and controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention to manage such funds as are entrusted to the Annuity Board. It especially serves the churches, the state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention and their agencies and institutions. The Annuity Board has a direct working relationship with the state conventions in providing staff for administering and promoting retirement plans. The Annuity Board may serve as trustee or agent for the Convention and its agencies in the funding of gift annuities, in keeping with Section IX of the Business and Financial Plan. Any new plan proposed by the Annuity Board materially affecting the contributions of the churches to the board must have the approval of the Convention or its Executive Committee."

It is the first of the four SBC boards to have its work presented to the Convention for adoption. It apparently will be the only agency to have a program presented to the 1963 Convention.

Albert McClellan of Nashville, program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, said it will take three or four years to write programs for the agencies still awaiting Convention action.

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Mercer President
Emeritus Dies

(2-23-63)

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Spright Dowell, president emeritus of Mercer University. (Baptist), died here Feb. 24 at age 84. He was stricken at his home and died en route to the hospital.

Dr. Dowell was Mercer president from 1929-53, leading the Baptist school through some of its greatest periods of physical and academic expansion. He was interim president in 1959-60, between the death of George B. Connell and the coming of current president Rufus C. Harris.

The late Dr. Dowell received a special citation from the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1959 for "distinguished service" to the denomination.

Mercer gave him its Algernon S. Sullivan Award, highest honor for service to the college, in 1960. He held honorary degrees from Mercer, Howard College (Baptist), Wake Forest College (Baptist), Baylor University (Baptist), and University of Alabama. He was president of Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) for eight years before going to the Mercer presidency.

Funeral services were held Feb. 26 at First Baptist Church in Macon. Interment was at Penfield, Ga., first home of Mercer University. He was buried alongside Jesse Mercer, founder of the school; Billington M. Sanders, Mercer's first president, and Dr. Connell.

Survivors include Mrs. Dowell of Macon, one son and two daughters.

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Wake Forest Church
Receives 2 Ghanians

(2-23-63)

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Two Ghanian students attending the seminary here have been voted into membership of the Wake Forest Baptist Church. The standing vote, while not unanimous, was by a substantial majority.

The students are Alfred Oteng and Stephen Akinleye, who are enrolled as special students for one year at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. They are pastors of Baptist churches in the African nation.

Oteng and Akinleye were led to Christ by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries serving in Ghana. Oteng, a former policeman, testified how he became interested in Christianity because of the way Southern Baptist missionaries lived.

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He said they came and lived among the Ghanaian people, while other visitors from abroad lived at a distance.

The two African students are not working toward a degree. They are living in a seminary dormitory for men.

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Carver Doesn't Need
\$40,000 Allocation

(2-28-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Carver School of Missions and Social Work won't need any more Cooperative Program funds to finish out this, its last year as a Southern Baptist Convention agency.

Nathan C. Brooks Jr. of Louisville, president of the school, announced this to the SBC Executive Committee at its winter meeting. The school, being merged into Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, had been provided \$40,000 through the Cooperative Program.

The full \$40,000 won't be needed, Brooks told the committee. The unused amount will be transferred into the Convention operating budget.

Brooks said all but two professors at the school have been placed in positions elsewhere for the year after Carver ends its separate existence.

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Cutlines

(2-28-63)

Baptist Press Photo

MISSION MILLIONS--Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union leaders take a second look at the largest check written for a Southern Baptist Convention agency. The \$3,466,498, from the SBC treasurer in Nashville, includes \$3,129,842 in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering money. It is for foreign missions, and the Lottie Moon offering is promoted by the women's group. At left is Baker J. Cauthen, Richmond, Foreign Board executive secretary. Miss Alma Hunt, center, is executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, and Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Tex., is women's president. (BP) Photo