

November 17, 1963

**Georgia Convention
Asks Racial Harmony**

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention called upon its nearly one million members to "serve as instruments of peace" as discord between the races stands as "a serious national problem."

The appeal was through the resolutions committee report in the convention's 142nd annual session, marked by harmony when there were fears the racial issue might provoke serious debate.

The convention indirectly gave its blessings to Mercer University which dropped racial bars last September and now has four Negro students. Action was through a motion from the floor to strike Mercer's appropriation from the convention budget.

A voice vote defeated the motion with only a scattering of support as messengers crowded the 1500-seat auditorium.

Another resolution commended the convention's publication, the Christian Index, for its crusade against gambling which has resulted in only 366 federal tax stamps being issued this year for coin-operated machines compared to 702 last year. The paper had published a list of those holding the federal stamps in each of the last three years.

Approval was given to purchase of Lake Louise Assembly, a private operation near the South Carolina line, Attoccoa, Ga. The convention will pay \$250,000 and spend a similar amount for improvements.

The convention adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$3,614,000 for next year, an increase of \$227,500. Southern Baptist Convention causes will receive \$1,568,000, an increase of \$94,500, and the state program a similar amount. The remainder is for the ministers' retirement plan, promotion and administration.

J. Thornton Williams, pastor, First Baptist Church, LaGrange, was reelected to his second term as president.

Next year the convention meets in Atlanta, Nov. 9-11.

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**Stetson Soccer '11'
Includes 47-Year-Old**

(11-17-63)

DELAND, Fla. (BP)--Stetson University here boasts of having perhaps the oldest active varsity soccer player in the nation--47-year-old H. V. Mansfield.

In college, there is no upper age limit set for athletic competition, so Mansfield, a retired U. S. Army Colonel, is now in his third season as a halfback with the Florida Baptist school's soccer eleven.

Last year he played enough quarters in varsity competition to win a coveted varsity letter.

The retired Army officer came to Stetson from 28 years in service, including World War II and the Korean conflict.

Following his expected graduation next June with a bachelor of arts degree from Stetson, Mansfield will continue on here to work on a master's degree in history.

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Tennessee Hopes
To Raise \$4 Million

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Tennessee Baptist Convention here adopted a 1964 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$3,850,000 but hopes to receive \$4 million from its cooperating churches.

One-third of Cooperative Program receipts will be sent to support Southern Baptist Convention activities. If more than \$3,850,000 is raised, the overage will be divided equally between the SBC and the Tennessee convention's four colleges and schools.

It elected David Q. Byrd Jr., pastor, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, as president. A layman, Burton Stoddard of Nashville, was elected second vice-president.

Messengers chose Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, as host for their 1964 session, Nov. 10-12.

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Maryland Favors
Interracial Welcome

(11-17-63)

BALTIMORE (BP)--Churches cooperating with the Baptist Convention of Maryland were urged here to welcome persons of all races to attend services and to join as members.

The resolution was passed by the convention's 1963 session.

The preacher of the convention sermon also warned against tightening church constitutions to keep Negroes from becoming members of Baptist churches.

And the convention did a turnabout of stands on the United States Supreme Court ruling outlawing some religious exercises in public schools.

The project to start a Baptist two-year college in Maryland won further support with approval of a charter and endorsement of a fund-raising plan.

In electing officers, the convention voted to abandon its practice of having a nominating committee present the name for convention president. By a narrow 96 to 86 margin, it voted, beginning in 1964, to have nominations from the floor.

Part of a resolution on "The Christian and the Race Issue" passed by an even narrower margin, though fewer messengers voted--55 to 51.

This part said Maryland Baptists support laws to end racial discrimination in public accommodations, housing and employment.

Other points in the resolution--later passed unanimously as a whole--encouraged interracial pulpit exchanges and other means of promoting better acquaintance between Whites and other races.

The convention newspaper, the Maryland Baptist, had editorially supported an open door policy for churches on the race issue, and also proposed direct nomination of the convention president.

The convention first approved, then reconsidered and deleted a resolution "that we are in agreement with the Supreme Court decision on required Bible reading and prayer." It was deferred indefinitely for study.

But a Christian life committee report sympathetic to the court's ruling, warning of misinterpretations, was received by the convention.

In the convention sermon, Archie C. Prevatte of Easton said, "In the matter of receiving new members we have become panicky just because a Negro made a test case in one of our churches. Apparently we want all who come to Christ and to church membership to be sincere and have the right motive. I'm positive God knows our motives and if we were honest, we would have to admit they are scandalous."

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He added, "We Baptists can no longer depend upon conformity to regional cultural patterns for our growth in America."

The convention passed a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$575,000 for 1964. The 1963 goal is \$560,000. The Southern Baptist Convention will receive 40 per cent of the first \$562,000 coming from churches in 1964.

Beyond this, income would be divided equally three ways--to the SBC, to capital needs and to the Maryland Baptist junior college fund.

The convention elected C. C. Anderson of Silver Spring as president. He was proposed by the nominating committee, but two names were offered from the floor in opposition.

A fund-raising campaign will be conducted in Maryland churches to obtain money for the proposed junior college.

The 1964 convention will meet Nov. 9-11 in Salisbury.

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Virginia Favors
Churchwide Offerings

(11-17-63)

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (BP)--The Baptist General Association of Virginia overruled a general board recommendation and said it favors making special annual home and foreign missions offerings churchwide events.

Following a year of hearings, the general board had adopted a stand leaving it to individual churches to "determine the nature and scope of special offerings for home and foreign missions."

The question at issue was whether these offerings should be promoted by the Woman's Missionary Union as an organization, or as churchwide offerings.

However, a motion offered at the 1962 associational session--which led to the general board study--was passed after messengers had turned down the general board's recommended stand.

C. L. Bishop of Alexandria offered the motion in 1962. It passed in 1963 and says,

"The Baptist General Association of Virginia requests the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia to conform to the practices of other state Woman's Missionary Unions in the promotion of the Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering and the Annie Armstrong Home Mission Offering by inviting churchwide participation."

In other action, the Virginia general association

--approved a general board recommendation that an individual cannot serve on more than two boards of trustees of Virginia Baptist agencies at the same time.

--approved expansion plans for the Virginia Baptist Home for the aging at Culpeper, and a study to find out if another such home elsewhere in the state is needed.

--asked its president to appoint a pastor-church relations committee "to give encouragement to district associations in dealing with the matter on the district associational level." This would aid churches seeking pastors.

The state office in Richmond anticipates keeping a file on men available for pastorates, for use by pastorless churches. Information on the availability of men for pastorates would be furnished on a volunteer basis, the report stated.

--voted not to enter a Baptist-supported boarding school program for retarded children and those "with mild emotional problems." It said while this is a "valid need," it should be met through public and community agencies rather than through Virginia Baptists.

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--favored construction of a public hospital to take care of alcoholics, and demanded stricter enforcement of an "implied consent law" to curb the number of accidents involving intoxicated drivers.

--adopted a goal of 65 new churches and missions being organized in 1964. The association now has 1414 cooperating churches with a total membership of about 487,000.

--passed a 1964 Cooperative Program budget of \$3,570,000 with 37 per cent for the Southern Baptist Convention. It also set a 1965 goal of \$4 million, with the larger part of the Virginia increase going for the capital needs of Baptist educational institutions.

The 1963 percentage to SBC activities is 36.

--elected Richard M. Stephenson, Falls Church minister, president, and a Suffolk dentist, Dr. L. H. Rawls, first vice-president.

--chose Roanoke for its 1964 convention, Nov. 12-15.

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New Mexico Attacks
Gambling, Obscenity

11-17-63

TUCUMCARI, N.M. (BP)-- Resolutions passed by the Baptist Convention of New Mexico here attacked gambling, salacious literature and the liquor traffic--and commended Baptists in the state on their race relations.

The convention reelected President Carl R. Scott of Clovis and confirmed Albuquerque as site of the 1964 convention, Nov. 10-12. It also selected Hobbs for 1965.

Messengers adopted a Cooperative Program goal of \$565,500 for 1964, of which 27 per cent is to be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention. The total budget for next year, including supplements from SBC boards for jointly sponsored work, runs to \$1,145,694.

Total offering plate receipts of New Mexico churches for the past year were reported to be \$5,165,228, up \$284,036 over the year before.

The convention said New Mexico Baptists are to be "commended for their excellent spirit in seeking the Christian solution in race relations" and said they should "be urged to continue to lead the way away from strife and contention in this matter."

It described salacious literature as an "evil influence" to be fought "with all our wisdom and might," and was worried over reported efforts to make New Mexico an open gambling state.

It said "the spirit and practice of gambling is basically non-Christian and contrary to the well-being of American people...." It asked Baptists to contact their state legislators to inform them of their opposition to legalized gambling.

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Alabama President
Hits 'Centralization'

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A Baptist editor and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention denounced the centralization of government in his president's address to the 1963 convention session here.

Leon Macon of Birmingham, editor of the Alabama Baptist, convention weekly newspaper, was reelected president of the state's largest denomination body.

He said, "When circumstances become regulated by personalities rather than law, then we can expect eventually to lose our religious freedom and personal liberties."

The convention's Christian life and public affairs commission suggested ways to "make a helpful contribution to the solution of the racial problem by doing just a few simple, practical things."

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It said these are:

1. "Be sincerely and genuinely Christian in attitudes toward and treatment of people of other races,
2. "Strive daily to overcome prejudices,
3. "Seek the welfare of all people, and
4. "Influence our children to refrain from any attitude which is unkind, unfair or unjust."

Christian education was highlighted in the \$10 million endowment program now under way to support three Baptist colleges in Alabama.

A Cooperative Program budget of \$3,744,000 for 1964 was voted, with the Southern Baptist Convention to get 35 per cent of the receipts.

H. P. Martin, Greenville, Ala., newspaperman, received the Alabama Baptist religious journalism award for religious news reporting.

Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, was chosen the convention meeting site for 1964.

The more than 2000 messengers were told to set their sights on the year 1973, when the convention will observe its 150th anniversary.

The Alabama Baptist State Convention (white) exchanged fraternal messengers with the state's Negro Baptist body, meeting in Birmingham at the same time.

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Wake Forest Trustee
Plan Fails to Carry

11-17-63

WILMINGTON, N.C. (BP)--A proposal to change the way in which trustees of Wake Forest College are elected failed to receive the needed two-thirds majority at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina here.

The vote was 1628 for, 1106 against a substitute proposal, which was a compromise on the original desire of the Wake Forest group. This gave the proposal a 60 per cent majority.

The original Wake Forest College proposal would have called for up to 16 out-of-state, non-Baptist trustees. This plan was offered by the state Baptist college at Winston-Salem in an effort to attract large gifts outside Baptist circles and move to university stature.

The original proposal never reached a vote after it was introduced on the convention floor here.

Instead, Convention President Nane Starnes of Asheville and other Baptist leaders introduced a substitute plan they had been working on for about six weeks.

The substitute proposal called for 12 out-of-state trustees, of whom only four could be non-Baptists. It was this substitute which missed by 194 votes attaining the 66-2/3 per cent majority needed.

Wake Forest College President Harold W. Tribble refused to give up the fight to change the mode of electing trustees.

"Anything we have to say we will bring up at the next convention," he declared. "We will not give up. Next year we can carry it at the convention!"

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The convention meets in Greensboro next year, a neighbor city to Winston-Salem.

The 3246 registered messengers here set a record, surpassing the 1957 convention registration--the year the college dancing issue was discussed. Observers attributed the record to the interest in the Wake Forest trustee proposal.

The convention elected without opposition W. Perry Crouch of Asheville as their new general secretary. He had previously been nominated by the general board. He takes office Jan. 1.

Howard J. Ford, 52-year-old Wilmington minister, was elected president succeeding Starnes. James M. Bulman, Spencer, N.C., minister, who was officially quieted at the 1957 convention, was elected convention parliamentarian.

Bulman is well-known in North Carolina and Southern Baptist Convention circles for motions on church autonomy.

The North Carolina convention also put itself on record opposing capital punishment. The effort to pass it a year ago failed, when by an overwhelming majority the issue was sent back to committee.

The vote was 517 for, 362 against the resolution opposing capital punishment. Voting took place on the convention's final day after most messengers had left.

The convention passed a \$5 million Cooperative Program budget for 1964, of which 34 per cent will go to the Southern Baptist Convention.

At Greensboro next Nov. 10-12, the North Carolina convention (white) will have one joint session with the state's Negro Baptist convention. It is a meeting as a part of the state's participation in Baptist Jubilee Year.

The Christian life committee report was adopted, which contained--in addition to the capital punishment resolution--statements on interfaith relations and race relations.

It said in part, "We Baptists have much to give and much to receive from a more informed and inclusive attitude toward joint Christian enterprises such as the North Carolina Council (of Churches) and the National Council of Churches than we have heretofore experienced."

On race, it said, "Our churches need to consider in the light of these biblical teachings their policy concerning the admission of Negro visitors and the application of Negroes for membership. These matters are more likely to be settled on the basis of Christian principles if dealt with calmly and prayerfully before the church is forced to deal with a particular case."

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Mississippi Seeks
Sales Tax Change

(11-17-63)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention here has requested the state legislature to amend the state sales tax laws to exempt curriculum materials bought by non-profit religious organizations and given without cost to members of these religious groups.

The request was made primarily to cover periodicals sold to churches in the state by the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board. It was in a resolution offered by Convention Executive Secretary Chester L. Quarles of Jackson.

Editor Joe T. Odle of the Baptist Record here, convention weekly newspaper, offered a resolution opposing federal grants to church-related institutions except for special scientific or medical research.

It also passed. Still another resolution adopted opposed any effort to repeal the present Mississippi prohibition laws.

The \$2,786,000 Cooperative Program budget adopted for 1964 includes \$919,500 for the Southern Baptist Convention. Messengers reelected Russell Bush Jr., Columbia dentist, for a second term as president of the convention. They will meet in Jackson for the 1964 session, Nov. 10-12. The convention closed with a youth night session which filled the 10,000-seat Mississippi Coliseum.

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