

November 20, 1963

**Immediate Open Door  
For Furman Loses Out**

Charleston, S. C. (BP)--The South Carolina Baptist Convention voted here to undertake a study of integrating all its colleges before allowing one of them to lower its racial bar to admissions alone.

The convention did it by backing up its general board's request to Furman University trustees that the Baptist school in Greenville postpone its decision to integrate.

The trustees had previously announced their open admissions policy.

An effort was made on the convention floor here to accept the open door decision of Furman trustees, but it failed.

The executive committee of the convention's general board will undertake the study and will report to a board meeting next October.

Messengers elected James A. Howard of Landrum as their new president.

Howard, a former secretary of evangelism and missions who served the convention 21 years, had declined nominations to convention offices the two years before. He retired from his convention secretaryship in 1961.

Arthur L. Gross, layman of Darlington, was elected first vice-president. The convention voted to hold its 1964 meeting Nov. 10-12 in Columbia.

The 1964 budget goal is \$3.6 million. The convention applies an intricate multi-stage, varying percentage scale in dividing receipts between state needs and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Horace G. Hammett of Columbia, convention general secretary, left after the convention for a six-week stewardship promotion tour in the Orient.

It was reported a college operated by Baptists will open in the Charleston vicinity in 1965.

-30-

**California Opposes  
Action of Congress**

(11-20-63)

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (BP)--The Southern Baptist General Convention of California announced its opposition here "to any bill which appropriates public monies for religious uses through aid to denominational colleges and university facilities."

In its 1963 session, the California denominational body called attention to a higher education bill which passed Congress providing such financial support.

A companion resolution asks associations of Baptist churches in the state to create church-state committees. These would report locally each year to associations on church-state issues.

The convention had reaffirmed its belief in church-state separation in voicing its opposition to the federal higher education bill.

Messengers elected R. Edwin Norris of Salinas their president. They adopted a 1964 total budget, including supplements for jointly operated service with Southern Baptist agencies, of \$1,836,356.

-more-

The Cooperative Program goal is \$1 million. The SBC Cooperative Program share is \$247,500.

The convention approved a campaign to raise \$112,000 to match a gift from a California woman to California Baptist College. She offered the school \$112,000 for a "Book of Life Building" contingent on it being matched by Baptist-raised funds of an equal amount.

The convention office building in Fresno has been condemned. Forced to move it, the convention authorized a new structure to be built.

At the Woman's Missionary Union convention, Miss Clara A. Lane announced she will resign Dec. 1 as statewide director of woman's work.

She will stay in California and remain with the convention, but as an educational worker in its language missions department, effective Jan. 1.

-30-

#### Kentucky Launches Education Advance

(11-20-63)

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--Kentucky Baptist Convention opened the book on its Christian education advance program with a special gathering of nearly 6000 state Baptist church leaders here.

The meeting was one feature of the 1963 convention session. The advance program is trying to raise \$9,056,000 for Kentucky convention colleges and schools.

Some of the money raised also will benefit Baptist student centers on college campuses and development of boys' and girls' camps at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Bagdad, Ky.

The convention voted to carry over for yet another year its lively discussion of whether Baptist-sponsored schools and colleges in the state may borrow money from the government for dormitory construction.

This was the second straight annual convention at which the matter has come up. The 1962 convention referred it for further study in 1963. This year, a motion to instruct convention schools not to seek federal loans was passed after debate, then reconsidered and tabled for a year.

One college has borrowed federal money twice for dormitories, it was learned. No other colleges have borrowed, or announced their intention to borrow, such funds although several are in extensive building programs.

On race, the convention adopted a three-point resolution.

First, it commended "all cooperating churches who have demonstrated the willingness and desire to accept persons solely on the New Testament basis of their faith in Christ and without regard to their racial origin."

Next, it asked "this practice be encouraged in all the churches" affiliated with Kentucky convention.

Finally, it directed the convention's executive board to appoint a fact-finding committee to undertake a study. The survey will ask affiliated churches their stand on interracial membership, replies to be received voluntarily in keeping with church autonomy.

Kentucky Baptist schools, children's homes and hospitals will report their policies and present practices regarding service to people of all races.

A report on the board's findings will come to the 1964 convention Nov. 10-12 in Louisville.

Another Kentucky convention resolution approved the United States Supreme Court's ruling on mandatory Bible reading and prayer in the public schools, but disapproved of "extreme interpretation of this ruling."

-more-

By "extreme interpretation," it meant that "which would infringe on the individual teachers' and pupils' freedom to voluntarily engage in these usages..."

Miss America, Donna Axum of Arkansas, a Baptist church member, was featured guest as thousands of young people met for a youth night rally ending the 1963 convention program.

Of the \$2,850,000 Cooperative Program goal for 1964, adopted, the Southern Baptist Convention will receive 35.5 per cent. J. Chester Badgett of Campbellsville was elected convention president.

The Christian education advance program will raise funds beyond the Cooperative Program and will last three to four years.

-30-

Ohioans To Mark  
10th Anniversary

(11-20-63)

DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--Ohio Southern Baptists will celebrate their own 10th anniversary as a convention next year, as well as join the Baptist Jubilee Year marking 150 years of organized Baptist work in North America.

At its 1963 session here, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio adopted the theme for 1964--"10,000 More in 1964." This announces its goal of 10,000 persons won to faith in Christ during the year ahead.

Convention leaders said this will be more than twice the number professing faith in any previous year in the convention's affiliated churches in Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania and New York.

Messengers also adopted a goal of 150 new missions to be started during the 12-month period. They want an enlarged program to meet inner-city needs in large cities in the convention territory.

Twenty-five new churches cooperating with the convention were organized during the past year, bringing the total to 294 churches. There are 111 missions; these churches and missions report a total of 53,000 members.

The 1964 total budget, approved, is \$700,899. The Cooperative Program goal includes \$120,132 to be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention. This is 30 per cent of the expected Cooperative Program receipts from churches; SBC share in 1963 is only 27 per cent.

The convention okayed a loan of \$55,000 from an Ohio bank, and use of another \$55,000 from convention reserves, to build an addition to the state convention offices in Columbus. Two stories of the three-storied new structure will be allotted the Baptist Book Store, subject to SBC Sunday School Board approval. The book stores are operated by the board.

Messengers voted to hold the 1964 convention Nov. 10-12 at Hamilton, Ohio. They reelected S. M. Mulkey of Dayton president.

-30-

Pittsburgh Director  
Sheds Pastor Role

(11-20-63)

PITTSBURGH (BP)--Joseph M. Waltz, pastor of Pittsburgh Baptist Church, and director of Southern Baptist Convention church extension for this Pennsylvania metropolitan area, will sever his church connections Dec. 31.

He will start 1964 as the missions superintendent for the greater Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania area. His election is subject to confirmation by the SBC Home Mission Board, whose meeting in December is expected to act on the matter.

Work in Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania falls within the territory of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, as far as state convention ties are concerned. The Home Mission Board has invested funds in salary supplements for pastors, including Waltz, and in purchase of sites for churches.

-more-

Waltz came to Pittsburgh in 1959 from pastorate of a church in Fairborn, Ohio. The Pittsburgh Church grew from a chapel organized in 1958.

The only other pastor-director in Southern Baptist work, Paul S. James, who serves Manhattan Baptist Church and the New York City metropolitan area, takes a similar step Dec. 15. He has resigned his pastorate to devote full-time to church development in the New York City region.

-30-

Kansas Holds First  
Meeting In Nebraska

(11-20-63)

BELLEVUE, Neb. (BP)--The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists held its 1963 session here, the first outside Kansas for this state body which includes affiliated Southern Baptist churches in eastern Nebraska.

Messengers heard plans for establishing 100 new missions and churches during 1964, and for launching a state missions drive next year for \$100,000 to buy church sites.

They adopted a Cooperative Program goal for 1964 of \$232,000. This was less than the \$244,000 goal for 1963, which convention financial officers said was unlikely to be met and called "unrealistic."

The Southern Baptist Convention will receive \$31,018 of the Cooperative Program goal.

The convention statistician reported there are now 170 churches and 34 missions cooperating with the Kansas convention. They have a total membership of nearly 40,000.

Forrest Siler, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kans., was elected president of the convention. Hutchinson, Kans., was picked for the 1964 meeting place, Nov. 17-19. The 1965 site will be Great Bend, Kans.

The convention's 100th cooperating church was organized in 1954; it hopes to have its 200th cooperating church next year.

-30-

Arizona Proceeds  
With Hospital Plan

(11-20-63)

KINGMAN, Ariz. (BP)--The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention voted here to proceed with plans for a hospital in Tucson.

It permitted its hospital association to buy 17 acres there for a new Baptist hospital. The land will cost \$125,000.

The city of Tucson has agreed to raise money within the city to help construct the hospital. Hospital bonds will be issued in the amount necessary to bring the balance of construction funds. The amount needed was not reported.

It was reported it will be a hospital with 125 beds.

Executive Secretary Charles L. McKay of Phoenix told messengers the Arizona convention has done in the last seven years something equal to or more than what it accomplished in the previous 28 years of its convention history.

From 1928 to 1956, Southern Baptists increased by 29,000. Since 1956, their gain has been 29,500 members of cooperating churches. There were 178 churches at the end of the first 28 years; in the last seven years, 178 churches and missions have been constituted.

McKay said gifts to world missions amounted to \$1-1/4 million for the 1928-1956 period. They amounted to \$1-3/4 million in the last seven years.

-more-

The convention accepted his challenge to do as much in the next seven years as it has in the 35 years since its formation.

Charles H. Ashcraft, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Las Vegas, Nev., was elected convention president. The 1964 meeting will be held in Phoenix, Nov. 18-20.

Cooperative Program receipts from churches in Arizona, Utah and Idaho and some of Nevada are expected to reach \$391,000 in 1964. The Southern Baptist Convention will be forwarded 20 per cent, or \$78,336. In 1963, the Arizona convention has sent only 18 per cent of Cooperative Program receipts to the SBC.