

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

Theo Sommerkamp, *assistant director*
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville 3, Tennessee

November 26, 1963

Dear State Baptist Paper Editor:

Here is your ballot for the Top 10 Southern Baptist Convention stories of the year 1963.

As you remember, Baptist Press has made this ballot available for several years. After tallying the replies, the SBC news story of the year and the nine others considered next in importance are listed.

The news story will be available to you to publish before many of you suspend publication the week of Christmas. This is why the ballot goes to you so early and why we must ask you to reply right away in order for your ballot to count.

Almost every year, one or two ballots come to us after our final tally has been made, beyond the deadline for having them returned here, too late to influence the standings. And in some years when the choice of top stories has been very close, the past-deadline ballots could have influenced the order in which they were listed!

We want to count everyone's ballot. Please mail them back to us immediately. Address to me at 460 James Robertson Parkway. They must be in our hands by Monday, Dec. 9. We will write the story that day. It will be released for publication Dec. 16, or in the case of a paper with Wednesday publication, Dec. 15. The story will carry a "do not release" tag line so that daily papers will not get a week's jump on the state weekly papers.

To the left of the story title you will find a blank space. Write the rank of the story in this space. If a particular entry should rate as No. 1 story of the year in your opinion, write "1" in the blank to the left of the title. Do this for 10 stories only; there are more than 20 stories on the ballot. Improper marking, which does occasionally happen, may make it impossible for us to tally the ballot. So please mark it carefully. (The No. 10 story would have the figure "10" in the left hand column, if you continue to mark them in order of decreasing significance.)

Let us hear from you soon. We suggest you reply by air mail.

Sincerely yours,



Theo Sommerkamp

TS:lm

news service serving Southern Baptists

1963 Baptist Press Ballot
Top 10 Stories of the Year

- _____ Japan New Life Crusade Conducted
- _____ Virginia Debates Method for Special Offerings
- _____ Baptists Survey City Church Affiliations
- _____ Woman Elected Vice-President of the SBC
- _____ Race Issue -- Churches Visited; 2 Colleges Integrate; State Conventions Vote
- _____ S B C Passes 10 Million Mark--Officially
- _____ New S B C Building Opened in Nashville
- _____ S B C Budget Revised to Restore Advance Funds
- _____ Statement on Faith and Message Passes; Ideals Announced
- _____ Three Youth Meetings Held in Summer--World; RA's and GA's nationally
- _____ Academic Freedom Still Discussed--Midwestern action; Educators worried
- _____ Ford Foundation Offers Matching \$1.5 Million to Stetson
- _____ Baptist Response to Kennedy Assassination
- _____ S B C Church Organized in Vermont, 50th State
- _____ N. C. Convention Fails to Pass Wake Forest Trustee Plan
- _____ Two New Baptist Colleges Open Doors
- _____ Atlantic City Jubilee Program Announced
- _____ Foreign Mission Board Reaches 1800 Missionary Goal
- _____ Contract Signed for Baptist World's Fair Exhibit
- _____ Baptists Concerned Over Higher Education Aid Bill
- _____ Seminary Enrolments Increase
- _____ Baptist Press Reporter Covers Vatican Council II
- _____ Cuba Expels 2 Home Missionaries
- _____ Baptist Editors Agree with Ruling on "Required" Bible Reading