

December 14, 1963

Home Board To Stress
Associational Missions

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is placing a major emphasis on associational missions, not a deemphasis, through its recent organizational changes.

This was stressed by Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the division of missions for the agency, in answer to questions from state mission leaders meeting here.

The mission leaders--executive secretaries and superintendents of missions from state Baptist conventions--were taking part in their annual conference with the mission agency.

"The changes which we have made will enable us to have more of our personnel working in associational missions," Rutledge said.

"The association is the basic denominational organization for Baptists, formed by messengers from as few as five churches to as many as 200 or more in a given area. There are more than 1100 such groupings of Southern Baptist churches.

"The major change we have made," Rutledge explained, "was the creation of the associational administration services and church extension department.

"This will enable us to stress the philosophy and functions of the association, working with other Convention agencies and state mission groups."

Associations will be assisted in doing mission work, however, by three "action" departments, Rutledge added. These are the pioneer missions department, the urban-rural department and the metropolitan missions department.

The pioneer work will be with churches and associations primarily in those 22 states of the Union where Southern Baptists do not have separate state conventions.

The metropolitan work will be with churches and associations in those areas declared standard metropolitan by the United States government, all having more than 50,000 population.

The urban-rural work will be with churches and associations in areas with less than 50,000 population.

Rutledge told the state mission leaders the organization was still under study, especially in its program alignment.

The Southern Baptist Convention is in the process of establishing programs for all its agencies, and Rutledge indicated those of the Home Mission Board will be presented at the 1965 meeting of the Convention.

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Top Problem in States:
Trained Pastor Lack

(12-14-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The lack of adequately trained pastors who can and will challenge and lead the membership of the churches was ranked as their number one problem by state Baptist mission leaders.

The ranking of problems occurred here at the annual meeting of state mission leaders with personnel of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Attending the meeting were the executive secretaries and superintendents of missions of the state Baptist conventions.

In a ballot distributed by mail, by Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission agency, the mission leaders were asked "to rank the problems as they affect the work in your state." They were also asked to add any others.

The ballots of the two groups were tabulated separately, but the voting revealed a definite similarity. The only sharp break occurred on voting for the second-place problem.

The executive secretaries ranked as their second problem, "inability or failure of Christian leaders to develop the spiritual fervor and power needed for our task." The superintendents of mission ranked this third.

Second-place problem for the superintendents was "opposing forces in our society than hinder the spread of the gospel, such as materialism, immorality, alcoholism, false religions, and philosophies." The secretaries ranked this seventh.

Inadequate financial support was the fourth-ranked problem, and inadequate buildings and equipment was fifth. Lack of sufficient pastors was the sixth problem, and the large number of non-resident and inactive church members was seventh among superintendents.

Two explosive issues of the day, doctrinal controversy and race conflicts, were two of the lowest-ranked problems by the mission leaders.

Some time was spent by the mission leaders in discussing solutions for these top-ranked problems.

To provide more adequately trained pastors, they suggested enlargement of the extension courses in the seminaries, more summer Bible courses in colleges, workshops, in-service training programs in colleges and additional meetings on techniques of work.

To develop the spiritual fervor of Christian leaders they suggested spiritual retreats in the churches, a stronger emphasis on training union, an enlarged sense of personal commitment, an emphasis on the pastor's devotional life, more Bible study and conferences for rural pastors.

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Blaze Destroys
Walterboro Church

(12-14-63)

WALTERBORO, S. C. (BP)--The First Baptist Church here has been completely destroyed by fire, with the loss estimated at \$422,000. The church plant had 90 per cent fire insurance coverage.

The blaze was discovered about 4 P. M. apparently in the boiler room. The church's minister of music was sitting in his office when he saw smoke rising through a crack in the floor.

With the help of fire departments from nearby cities, the blaze was brought under control by 7:30 o'clock. The Walterboro church has a membership of 1580.

A \$30,000 organ; 10 specially built stained glass windows and \$10,000 worth of freshly installed carpet were part of the fire loss. Wallace Rogers, the church's new pastor, had preached his first sermon only two days before the fire here.

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Religion Issue Fails To Stop College Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)--A college aid bill providing grants and loans to church-related colleges as well as public institutions, the first of its kind, won Senate approval in a vote of 54-27. This sends the measure to the White House for the President's signature.

The bill, a compromise between differing Senate and House versions, was passed by the House in early November. The Senate had held up action pending agreement in a conference committee on another education bill, the vocational education proposal.

The college bill would authorize \$1.195 billion for the first three years of a five-year program. Both grants and loans would be available to private and public colleges. The funds would be limited to construction of academic facilities for science, engineering, mathematics and modern foreign languages, and for libraries.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N. C.), sponsor of a judicial review amendment in the original Senate bill, spoke at length in opposition to the conference report. He urged the Senate to reject it and request a second conference with the House. Senate conferees, he said, should be instructed to retain the judicial review amendment.

"I have opposed this program because I believe that this bill...as it is phrased at the present, gives religious denominations access to the federal treasury for the purpose of financing schools owned and operated by them," Ervin said.

"I conceive this to be a violation of the provisions of the first amendment of the Constitution," he continued.

The senator said the college bill "attempts to divorce the supposed secular activities of church colleges and universities from their religious activities, and to provide for financial support from the federal treasury only for their secular activities...This is exactly what the Supreme Court has said cannot be done." Ervin referred to a number of Supreme Court cases which he said supported his opinion aid to church schools is unconstitutional.

Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.), Cosponsor of the judicial review amendment, also argued against the conference report on the college bill. He said he was aware colleges, public or private or religious, are in need of additional funds. He said church colleges contribute to the "richness of our educational system, and to its spiritual values."

"Nevertheless," Cooper continued, "We are faced, as I see it, with the question... whether Congress has the authority to provide tax funds to church schools."

Sen. Lister Hill (D., Ala.), chairman of the Senate Education and Labor Committee, spoke in opposition to the measure. Hill was a member of the conference committee on the bill but did not sign the report.

"I feel that the pending conference report is directly in violation of the Constitution and is a complete negation and defeat of the fundamental principle of the separation of church and state," Hill stated.

Replying to the demands to keep judicial review in the bill, Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), chairman of the subcommittee on education, said the house would not pass the college bill with judicial review in it. He called attention to the recent separate bills on judicial review introduced by himself in the Senate and by Rep. Edith Green (D., Ore.) in the House. He said it does not necessarily follow the House will not pass this separate bill.

Sen. Gordon Allott (R., Colo.), speaking against the bill, said one problem is the funds would be available to construct buildings designed for specific purposes. The key, he said, is the use of the word "designed."

"Under the provisions of the bill, federal funds can be had for the construction of a building which is "designed" for scientific, mathematics, and similar subjects. The day after the money is paid, the building can be converted to any use to which the owners wish it to be converted," Allott said.

"We are contributing to the support of religion because the building belongs to a religious institution," he stated.

Sen. Morse, in concluding remarks before the final vote, said the Senate was faced with the question of whether or not there would be any education legislation. He reminded the senators that recently they had passed a bill granting aid to medical schools and religious schools were included in that bill.

Morse emphasized he wanted a review of the constitutionality of such programs and he had introduced such legislation before. He said, however, that "wisdom calls for adopting the conference report" on the college bill and then getting to judicial review in the separate bill.

Another education measure, the vocational education bill, has been reported out of conference committee. It would provide funds for vocational education in the states, extension of the impacted areas program, and extension of the student loan provision of the National Defense Education Act. Immediate action is expected on this bill by both the House and the Senate.

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4 Denominations Put
In 3-Manual Organ

(12-14-63)

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--No telling whose hymnal this organ will follow!

Bethel College here is having installed a three-manual pipe organ. From two sources, it has secured organs with two manuals.

An episcopalian organ builder is combining on this Baptist junior college campus Pilcher instruments which have played in Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

First Methodist Church, Greenville, Ky., after installing a newer and different-type organ, gave its two-manual pipe organ to Bethel College. The other two-manual organ was purchased on the market; it had once played in a Presbyterian church in Alabama.

The organ builder, whose work was to be completed after the Christmas-New Year's holidays, is replacing ranks of pipes common to both organs with others so the finished three-manual organ will have 22 ranks made up of 1293 individual pipes and a set of 21 chimes.

The modernized college pipe organ will have electromatic controls.

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Kentucky College
Seeks New Home

(12-14-63)

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Bethel College, Baptist two-year school here, is looking for a new home in western Kentucky.

Its trustees said the building of a two-year branch of the University of Kentucky here by 1965 "places Bethel College in an untenable position as a Hopkinsville institution" since the city, educators say, is "too small adequately to support two colleges."

Bethel President P. Harris Anderson and a trustee committee will "investigate possible offers of other western Kentucky communities as to a suitable site and adequate financial and student support."

They will report by next Feb. 1.

Three years ago, West Union Baptist Association, covering the Paducah, Ky., area, again expressed hope a Baptist college would be launched there. Bethel College is the nearest Baptist school to Paducah, located at the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers.

One question would be whether sentiment in Paducah remains the same it did at that time and whether incentives for locating a college at Paducah would be adequate.

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The Kentucky Baptist Convention has just gotten a \$9,056,000 special campaign under way to help its six schools and colleges, Baptist students center on campuses, and assembly grounds. This was revised downward from an original plan to raise \$12 million.

Bethel, one of the smallest schools supported by the convention, would get a share smaller than larger schools.

This adds the question of where Bethel would secure money to build a new campus.

Before the Christian education campaign was mapped, there was talk among convention leaders about Bethel's being closed as a Baptist institution.

Bethel College was founded in 1854 by a group of Hopkinsville area Baptists. It was for 97 years a woman's college, but has been coeducational since 1951.

Also in 1951 it came under the control of the Kentucky convention, where formerly it was operated by a district association of Baptist churches. Present net enrolment is 159.

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Texas Board Urges
Sorrow Bring Love

(12-14-63)

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Executive Board urged Christians to make "these sorrowful days in the aftermath of the brutal murder of President John F. Kennedy" a time of reexamination and rededication to Christian love--not hate.

The 192-member board, meeting here, passed unanimously a recommendation presented by its Christian life commission urging Baptists in Texas "to demonstrate Christian love in every action, attitude and conversation."

"We have been made keenly conscious of those elements in our society who despise law and create disorder," the recommendation said.

It further urged Baptists "to a prayerful support of our national leadership in these critical days."

The board also sent telegrams to President Lyndon B. Johnson and to Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and family.

The telegrams assured Mrs. Kennedy of "our sincere sympathy in your time of sorrow," and "of our continued prayers in the days ahead."

President Johnson was pledged prayers "that God will give you the wisdom and faith you need to fulfill the awesome responsibility you have."

It was the first meeting of the Texas executive board in the city where President Kennedy was assassinated since the tragic event occurred.

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Baptists Carry Program
To Student Architects

(12-14-63)

DALLAS (BP)--An award program has been established in Texas to help teach architectural students about Baptist church designs.

Sponsored by the church architecture department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the program is thought to be the first of its type undertaken by Baptists.

"In addition to helping the students learn to design Baptist church buildings, the program aims at making them aware of Baptist architecture as an area of future practice," said Taylor Pendley, secretary of the Texas Baptist church building department.

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Current growth trends will compel Texas Baptists to construct 1000 new church and mission buildings by 1975, he said.

The award program is open to third-year architecture students at the University of Houston; Rice University, Houston; Texas A & M University, College Station; Texas Technological College, Lubbock; and the University of Texas, Austin.

The best three designs in each school will receive cash awards and certificates.

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Follow-up To Japan
Crusade Approved

(12-14-63)

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Executive Board approved two proposals as a follow-up to the nationwide Japan Baptist New Life Movement, elected officers, and named a new employee during its quarterly meeting here.

The board also approved the study of establishing a "New Life Crusade Foundation" which would invest funds for future mass evangelism crusades like the Asian New Life Movement last spring.

As a follow-up to the Japan Crusade, the board approved proposals to bring 10 Japanese Baptist pastors to the United States for three months of study and work in local Baptist churches.

It also approved sending five music and education directors from Texas to Japan to help Japan Baptist churches improve music and education programs.

The expenses of the Texas and Japanese churchmen would be paid by the churches involved in the exchange. The men would be selected by the Japan Baptist Convention executive committee.

Two separate periods of prayer were spent for the Texas Baptist Latin American Crusade aimed at reaching two million Latin Americans with the gospel in 1964. Texas Baptist Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson said he hoped at least 100,000 Latin Americans would be converted during the campaign.

In other action, the executive board elected J. Carol Chadwick, pastor of First Baptist Church, Center, Tex., as chairman.

The board employed Harold Hanson, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Nederland, Tex., as associate in the Sunday school department for the convention, succeeding Victor Varner who resigned to join the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission staff in Memphis, Tenn.

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Tippit Memorial Fund
Passes \$200,000 Mark

(12-14-63)

DALLAS (BP)--Gifts totaling more than \$200,000 from sympathetic people around the world have been received here for the family of Dallas Policeman J. D. Tippit.

Tippit, a Baptist, was killed while attempting to question Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Law enforcement officers said here investigations have revealed "without a shadow of doubt" that Oswald was the killer of both Tippit and the late President.

Three weeks following the two murders, gifts to the Tippit family had passed the \$200,000 mark.

Tippit, his wife and family were members of Beckley Hills Baptist Church here. His pastor, C. D. Tipps, said Tippit was "fairly active" considering that he usually held other employment in addition to serving on the police force. Tippit's son, Allen, was especially active in Royal Ambassadors and Sunday School at Beckley Hills Church, and was "honor camper" at a Royal Ambassador Camp two years ago.

A Baptist leader remarked after Tippit's death the family's faith in God had been "a tower of strength for them during the time of grief."

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