

June 16, 1948

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES NEED FOR FOREIGN MISSION ADVANCE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--A vastly enlarged foreign mission program for Southern Baptists was outlined to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in its annual meeting June 15 and 16, and plans were set for later meetings to study procedure in the proposed expansion.

The "program of advance" as outlined by Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, calls for an annual budget of \$10,000,000 and 1,750 missionaries in 25 countries. The program is about three times the present foreign mission budget.

In a resolution, the Committee took cognizance "of the urgent need for Southern Baptists to enlarge their program of world evangelization" and "that any success along this line depends upon enlarged giving by the local churches and a more effective distribution of our resources," and voted "that we therefore call to the attention of all Southern Baptists that two objectives have already been adopted which would immediately enable us to strengthen our program of world evangelization, namely 'Every Baptist a Tither' and 'Fifty-Fifty by 1950.'"

The Committee also endorsed current movements by the Woman's Missionary Union and Sunday School Board for the establishment of 100,000 new family altars in Southern Baptist homes. These altars, it was explained, would call all members of a family together regularly for Bible reading and prayer.

In another action, the Committee authorized transfer of \$248,185 in securities to the keeping of Southern Baptist Foundation, a newly established institution for the handling and investment of the denomination's trust funds. Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary, said that the securities represented trusts and other holdings of the Executive Committee.

George B. Fraser, Washington, D. C., attorney, was re-elected president of the Executive Committee. Dr. C. H. Bolton, Miami, Fla., was named vice-president, and Porter Routh, Nashville, was re-elected secretary.

All employed officers of the Committee were re-elected. These include Dr. McCall, executive secretary and treasurer; Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion and associate secretary; and C. E. Bryant, director of publicity and

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2...Executive Committee

Convention press representative.

President Fraser named the following standing committees:

Administration: Frank A. Hooper, Jr., Georgia, chairman; J. T. Barbee, New Mexico; Ralph P. Baylor, Maryland; E. L. Compere, Arkansas; W. Perry Crouch, North Carolina; Walter B. Feagins, Florida; A. J. Moncrief, Jr., Missouri; R. Houston Smith, Louisiana; and H. W. Tiffany, Virginia.

Promotion: C. C. Warren, North Carolina, chairman; Mrs. Frank S. Burney, Georgia; J. A. Ellis, Texas; Isam B. Hodges, California; R. G. Lee, Tennessee; Mrs. George R. Martin, Virginia; J. Norris Palmer, Louisiana; Howard M. Reaves, Alabama; and Paul Wheeler, South Carolina.

Finance: R. Paul Caudill, Tennessee, chairman; H. G. Bennett, Oklahoma; C. H. Bolton, Florida; W. Boyd Hunt, Texas; and Leon M. Latimer, South Carolina.

Opdyke Scholarships: Chester L. Quarles, Alabama, chairman; H. C. Chiles, Kentucky; I. E. Lee, Illinois; and R. H. Tharp, Arizona.

Convention Arrangements: Charles S. Henderson, Mississippi, chairman; R. Lofton Hudson, Oklahoma; and Porter Routh, Tennessee.

Dr. Quarles reported that 71 students from mountain areas will be given scholarships in 23 schools at a cost of \$7,700 next year through the Opdyke scholarship fund.

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DR. NORDENHAUG NAMED
EDITOR OF COMMISSION

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Dr. Josef Nordenhaug of Oslo, Norway, and Lynchburg, Va., has been elected editor of The Commission, monthly magazine of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Dr. Nordenhaug, who is resigning the pastorate of the Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church of Lynchburg to accept the editorial post, will succeed Dr. E. C. Routh, who retired May 15. He will assume the new duties September 1.

An American citizen since 1937, Dr. Nordenhaug was born and educated in Norway. He taught four years in the Baptist Theological College of Oslo. Coming to the United States in 1928, he entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, where he received the degrees of master of theology and doctor of philosophy. He has been prominent in Southern Baptist and world Baptist affairs for many years.

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BIRMINGHAM PASTORS PROTEST
BIBLE COURSE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--Proposals for an elective, non-sectarian course in the English Bible in Birmingham public schools have met with protest from the Birmingham Pastors Association.

The proposals came to the Birmingham Board of Education in a resolution presented by Circuit Judge E. M. Creel and Rev. John W. McQueen, pastor of the Woodlawn Presbyterian Church, asking that the course be offered in Woodlawn High School. They said their move was "endorsed by about 20 organizations and churches in the Woodlawn area."

Students would be enrolled only upon written approval of their parents, the resolution provided, and instructors would be selected by the school board but paid by the cooperating churches. The plan would use school facilities during school hours.

Protest to the proposal was led by Dr. John H. Buchanan, pastor of Birmingham's Southside Baptist Church. In a resolution adopted by the Birmingham Pastors Association, the classes were opposed if held on school property by any tax-supported instructor or during school hours.

The Association was joined in the protest by Rabbi Milton Grafman of Temple Emmanu-El, who held that the teaching of Bibles in public schools violates basic principles of the Constitution.

Said Dr. Buchanan: "While I am 100 per cent for everybody studying the Bible, we protest this innovation in Birmingham public schools. The Constitution thus far has kept complete separation of church and state. Religion, by name, laying a hold on the forces of state to promote its principles is a violation of the Constitution. The Creator ordained two institutions to teach religion -- the home and the church. If the home did its part there would be no need for the state to step into that field."

Dr. Buchanan pointed out that in the Birmingham area, four different Bibles are used. "When it comes to introducing the Bible as a text, a majority of the people would designate the Protestant Bible, but in so doing would invade the conscience of every group that does not accept our Protestant Bible. If we are to continue to respect religious minorities, we must not invade their conscience."