

May 8, 1964

**Kentucky Board
Opposes Becker**

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--The executive board of Kentucky Baptist Convention announced here it opposes an effort in Congress to alter the first amendment to the United States Constitution.

It urged Kentucky congressmen and senators to be against the Becker proposals to change the first amendment.

The Kentucky Baptist board said the Becker proposals are a threat to the first amendment, which has been a safeguard of religious liberty and church-state separation. The Baptist board said further no decision of the United States Supreme Court has ruled out voluntary prayers and Bible reading in the public schools.

The Becker proposals bear the name of Rep. Frank Becker (R., N. Y.), a Roman Catholic who has led a crusade for a constitutional amendment which he says "permits" or "restores" Bible reading and prayers to public schools. This is one of scores of maneuvers after the U. S. Supreme Court restrained government from promoting or requiring devotional activities.

The Kentucky board adopted a record Cooperative Program budget for fiscal 1965, which starts Sept. 1. The \$3,260,000 budget includes 35.6 per cent for support of Southern Baptist Convention agencies. It is subject to final passage by the state convention's 1965 session.

James C. Austin of Nashville, a staff member of the SBC Stewardship Commission, was elected secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation effective Sept. 1. He will succeed A. M. Vollmer, who retires.

Austin is a former assistant to the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Middletown is a suburb of Louisville.

It was reported cash and pledges now cover one-third of the \$9 million goal in the Christian Education Advance campaign among Kentucky Baptists.

-30-

**Ground Broken For New
Dallas Baptist College**

(5-8-64)

DALLAS (BP)--Ground was broken at a new campus site for Dallas Baptist College, scheduled to open here in September, 1965.

The spades were turned on the 260-acre campus for the first of five buildings valued at \$2.5 million.

Included on the new campus will be an administration-classroom building, student center, physical education building and dormitories.

The faculty and equipment of Decatur Baptist College, located 40 miles north of Dallas, will move to the new campus site in the summer of 1965 to form the school's nucleus.

In groundbreaking ceremonies here, W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Dallas, said the new site would make this "the most potentially beautiful college in the state."

The campus is located southwest of Dallas on a hill overlooking Mountain Creek Lake.

Criswell said the location between populous Dallas and Fort Worth would be a great advantage to the school.

-more-

President of Decatur Baptist College, Otis Strickland, said the junior college would bring to Dallas in 1965 "a tried and tested faculty, \$160,000 worth of equipment, and \$300,000 in endowments."

"We are not organizing a new Baptist college," Strickland said. "Decatur Baptist College is the oldest Baptist junior college in the world."

About 400 students are expected to enrol when the school moves to the new campus site in Dallas.

-30-

New Pamphlet Studies
Interracial Marriage

(5-8-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--"Interracial Marriage" is the subject of a new pamphlet produced by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to Foy Valentine, Nashville, the commission's executive secretary, the pamphlet was written to meet an apparent need for information about this problem.

"Because interracial marriage is being widely discussed and will increasingly be discussed," said Valentine, "we asked Dr. T. B. Maston to write a concise study of some of the biblical, legal and practical aspects of the problem."

The new pamphlet is one of 39 produced by the Christian Life Commission in the general area of Christian social ethics. They are available upon request, free in single copies and two cents each in quantity, from the commission office, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville 37219.

Maston is retired professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

-30-

Mother Of 13 Honored
By Texas Baptist Group

(5-8-64)

DALLAS (BP)--An 84-year-old widow from Houston, Mrs. Annie Wood, who once took in washing and ironing to help support nine of her 13 children, has been named Texas Baptist "mother of the year."

Mrs. Wood was honored during special Mother's Day services at the First Baptist Church of Stafford, Tex., near Houston.

She was named to receive the award by a special committee appointed by the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptist weekly newsmagazine, and the public relations office for the Baptist General Convention of Texas here, cosponsors of the annual award.

The committee cited Mrs. Wood for "outstanding contributions to Christianity through raising 13 children in a Christian home, especially after the hardships caused by the death of her husband."

It was 1932 when Mrs. Wood's husband, J. C. Wood, died of a brain tumor caused by a blow on the head. Wood, a carpenter by trade, was working on a Baptist church building in Troy, Tex., where he was an active member when a heavy board fell on his head, causing a brain tumor which was ultimately fatal.

Mrs. Wood, with nine children at home and two daughters attending Mary Hardin-Baylor College (Baptist) in Belton, Tex., took in washing and ironing to supplement income from older children who helped to support the family.

Said one of her daughters, "I don't know how mother did it--bringing up 13 children in those depression days."

The 84-year-old Texas Baptist "mother of the year" admitted it was no easy task. "The Lord just gave me the strength to carry on," she said.

-more-

Today, she is so active and spry that doctors give her pills to slow her down and keep her from doing too much. She lives in Houston with her youngest daughter, Mrs. William Fretwell, office secretary for the District 4 missions office of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Other daughters are: Mrs. Guy (Rose) Flippo of Temple, Tex., a school teacher and former church secretary who is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Mrs. Lorraine Frisch of Taylor, Tex.; Mrs. Flay Baugh, also of Temple; and Mrs. Edith Hill of Houston.

Sons of the honoree are: Charles Wood of Holland, Tex.; Olvin Wood of Refugio, Tex.; Robert Lee Wood of Farmington, N. M.; four from Stafford, Tex.--Sam, Tom, Woodrow, and Claude Wood; and Maj. Barton Wood, stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, and a licensed Baptist minister who felt the Lord wanted him as a Christian witness in the military service rather than in the pulpit.

-30-

Jubilee Drama
Winners Announced

(5-8-64)

By the Baptist Press

First, second and third place winners have been announced in the Baptist Jubilee Advance drama-writing contest conducted as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of North North American Baptists.

The winning drama, "Except for John Leland," will be presented at a Sunday morning service (May 24) in Atlantic City, N. J., during the Baptist Third Jubilee Celebration.

It was written by Albert Johnson, professor of drama at Redlands University, Redlands, Calif. The college is related to the American Baptist Convention.

Second place went to a drama written by a Southern Baptist college teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Watson. Mrs. Watson is associate professor of dramatics at Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C.

The president of Acadia University, Canadian Baptist institution in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, won third prize. He is Watson Kirkconnell.

Prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100, respectively, went to the first, second and third-place winners. The winners were announced at Valley Forge, Pa., by Edwin H. Tuller, chairman of the Jubilee committee sponsoring the contest. Tuller is general secretary of the American Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Watson's second-prize play, "The Captives and the Blind," takes its theme and title from two passages in the Bible, Isa. 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18-19. Kirkconnell's play was entitled, "Let My People Go."

Entrants were instructed to submit original dramas on "The Quest of All People for Freedom." Nine persons entered dramas. Judges were Norman Nadel, chief drama critic, New York World-Telegram and Sun; Mrs. Amy Goodhue Loomis, Vincennes, Ind., drama professor at Vincennes University, and Jarka M. Burian, professor of speech and drama at State University of New York, Albany.

-30-

Editors: Please note time element in paragraph two when deciding which date of issue this will be used.

BAPTIST PRESS

460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Davis C. Woolley
Historical Commission
127 Ninth Ave., No.
Nashville, Tennessee

519

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE