

September 5, 1964

**New England Association
To Hold Fellowship**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (BP)--Southern Baptists in New England have announced here they will hold a fellowship meeting, one of the steps necessary to forming a separate "state" convention. No date was set for the fellowship meeting.

Associational Missionary Elmer Sizemore of Cambridge, Mass., reported there are 12 Southern Baptist-affiliated churches in New England. He expects four or five more to be constituted by the end of the year.

Once considered as a possibility was a regional "state" convention covering the Northeast from Delaware through Maine. This was voted down earlier this year by representatives of churches in the states involved.

Instead, they voted to "proceed with deliberate haste" to form several conventions covering smaller areas of the Northeast. Two fellowship meetings were set by other associations of churches in the region--one to meet in western New York at Endicott, the other in the Pittsburgh area at Monroeville, Pa.

Churches in the 11 Northeastern states are presently cooperating with the Baptist Convention of Maryland if they are along the Atlantic coast, while those in western New York and western Pennsylvania are cooperating with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

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President Emeritus

(9-5-64)

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Dr. John L. Plyler, who retired Sept. 1 as president of Furman University (Baptist) here, has been named by the trustees as the school's president emeritus. Furman's seventh president, Plyler headed the university for over 25 years. Dean Francis W. Bonner will be in charge of university affairs until new President Gordon W. Blackwell of Tallahassee, Fla., arrives in January.

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**Stations Give Baptists
\$3 Million In Air Time**

(9-5-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Radio and television stations throughout the United States will give more than \$3 million worth of broadcast time to Southern Baptists this year, the denomination's Radio and Television Commission director here predicted.

Paul M. Stevens, commission director, said that 1,364 stations using Baptist-produced programs allot \$45,648 worth of broadcast time each week to the programs.

For the year, this will amount to 40,420 hours of free time valued at \$3,034,824, Stevens said.

The SBC Radio TV Commission director added that the \$3 million figure does not include about a million dollars worth of free time for nation-wide programs on three major networks, nor for programs produced by local churches.

In addition, Baptist-produced programs are carried in seven languages by 205 stations in countries outside the United States. No estimate of the broadcast time value for those stations is available, Stevens said.

Since October of 1963, the number of stations carrying Baptist programs has increased at the rate of 24 per month for a net gain of 269 stations for the 11-month period.

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