

September 11, 1964

Registration Requested
For Baptist Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)--Registration cards for the 11th Baptist World Congress, meeting at Miami Beach, June 25-30, 1965, are now being distributed. Baptists planning to attend the Congress should complete registration as early as possible.

The cards may be secured from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn., or from the Baptist World Congress Committee, 1452 N. W. 36th St., Miami, Fla.

Registration fees for the Congress are \$12 for adults, or \$17 for a married couple. Children, 6 to 14, accompanying their parents may register for \$3 each. Young People, 15 to 20, are entitled to a special rate of \$6.

Both the \$12 adult rate and the \$6 young people's rate entitle the registrant to a free copy of the Congress report volume, published following the sessions.

Conrad R. Willard, general chairman of arrangements in Miami Beach, said that registration will be required for admission to Congress sessions.

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Joins Monroe Staff

(9-11-64)

MONROE, La. (BP)--Mrs. Irene Long Curtis has joined the staff of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home here as a caseworker. Once chief social worker at Alabama Baptist Children's Home, Troy, Mrs. Long also formerly was executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union work for Illinois Baptists. She has for several years been national director of the youth department for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, with offices in Evanston, Ill.

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Georgia To Increase
Gifts Through SBC

(9-11-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention will be asked to increase its Cooperative Program gifts through the Southern Baptist Convention by \$127,504 in 1965.

The State Executive Committee agreed on the increase in adopting recommendations for the convention in November. Georgia's total budget would be \$3,882,008, an increase of \$268,008. Of the amount, \$1,715,504 would go to the SBC, a similar amount for Georgia agencies and institutions and \$451,000 for administration, promotion and the ministers' retirement plan.

The executive committee will also ask the convention to approve a \$5 million expansion program for Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta, half to be raised in a campaign and half to be borrowed.

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Oklahoma History Set

(9-11-64)

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The historical commission of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma has selected J. M. Gaskin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Durant, Okla., to write a series of four books dealing with Oklahoma Baptist history. The manuscripts, which are scheduled to be completed by 1973, will be published by the commission. All royalties from the sale of the four books will go to the Oklahoma Convention.

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Johnson, Goldwater Give
Church-State Positions

By Jim Newton

DALLAS (BP)--The two major candidates for President of the United States expressed their views on church-state separation and federal aid to church-related schools in statements published by the Baptist Standard here.

In an accompanying editorial, Editor E. S. James of the Baptist weekly said the official Texas Baptist publication regards federal aid to parochial schools as "the number one domestic issue in the November election."

The influential editor did not, however, comment on the statements editorially. "We publish them (the statements) verbatim across the page and leave it to the reader to analyze them," the editor said.

In a very brief statement, Democratic Candidate and Incumbent Lyndon B. Johnson stated he believed in the American tradition of church-state separation as expressed in the Constitution. He expressed opposition to any federal program--including assistance to schools--which does not conform to the First Amendment of the Constitution.

President Johnson's statement did not specify whether he personally believed that federal aid to parochial schools is actually a violation of the Constitution, but he implied he did.

Republican Candidate Barry M. Goldwater, in a lengthy letter to the Standard, said he was opposed to federal aid to education in general, but felt if federal aid is given to public schools, it should also be given to private, non-profit schools.

Both statements were similar to previously published opinions of the two candidates, but were made exclusively to the Baptist Standard at the editor's request.

In the editorial, the Standard strongly condemned the "rising tide of insistence that federal aid to parochial schools on the lower levels be provided."

"This very area could well be the American Armageddon beyond which there will be no place to fall back and renew the battle to keep church and state separate," the editorial said.

The Baptist Standard sought similar statements of opinions from the 1960 presidential candidates, and the editorial announced plans to publish the views of Texas candidates for Congress on that issue in the near future.

The editorial said the position of the late President John F. Kennedy, a Catholic who opposed federal aid to parochial schools, had convinced most fair-minded citizens that a man should neither be elected nor defeated because of his church membership.

"Nevertheless, the issue of church-state separation is still very much alive; and it will probably be with us for a long time to come," James said.

The Standard, with circulation of over 375,000, is the leading paper in this category among the 28 published by state convention units in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Full Statement by Lyndon B. Johnson

"I believe in the American tradition of separation of church and state which is expressed in the First Amendment to the Constitution. By my office--and by personal conviction--I am sworn to uphold that tradition. Therefore, I would oppose any federal program--including assistance to schools--which does not strictly conform to this constitutional requirement."

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Full Statement by Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R., Ariz.)

"I have always opposed federal aid to education as an improper intervention by the central government into a public sphere, education, which both traditionally and constitutionally falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of the several states and their local school agencies. However, I have always insisted that if education in the United States is in so parlous a financial condition that only federal assistance can make it possible for our children to receive the primary and secondary education to which they are rightfully entitled, then such federal aid should be made equally available to all of our children by giving it to non-profit schools, whether public or private, as long as they meet the educational requirements established by their respective state and local public authorities.

"If serious educational deficiencies exist due to lack of funds, then the millions of children in non-public schools need such aid just as much as do those in the public schools. For these reasons, I have always supported any amendment to federal aid to education bills which is designed to provide aid to private non-profit schools. However, even where such an amendment is included I have nevertheless voted against the bill itself because of my opposition to federal aid to education.

"I do wish to point out, however, that I have offered several bills which, using the tax credit approach, not only by-pass the federal government completely while making available ample financial resources for the states, but which also completely eliminate the entire problem of aid to private and parochial schools and yet provide absolutely fair and equal treatment for all of our school children."

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Florida Again Hikes
SBC Share Of Funds

(9-11-64)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The proposed Cooperative Program budget for the Florida Baptist Convention for the coming year is \$2.9 million.

The convention's board of missions approved a distribution which forwards 43 per cent to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and worldwide activities. This is a hike from 42 per cent in 1964 for Florida, already one of the leading states in the percentage of annual budget shared with the SBC.

The Cooperative Program budget total is \$100,000 greater than the current year's. The proposal from the board of missions, the convention's administrative board between sessions, now goes to the full convention in November for action.

In other action, the state board took steps to complete its camps for two missionary youth organizations--the Royal Ambassadors for boys and the Girls' Auxiliary.

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Fort Worth Firm
To Build TV Center

(9-11-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A Fort Worth contracting firm has been awarded the construction project for a new communications center to house the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission here.

Building will be started immediately by the Albert L. Smith Co. The center will be completed within 10 months, according to the builder. Paul M. Stevens, commission director, said dedication ceremonies will be held in June, 1965 during the week the Southern Baptist Convention meets in neighboring Dallas.

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Baptists' Weak Rural
Churches Asked To Merge

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Long Range Rural Church Committee has called for rural churches to study merging with other rural Baptist churches which are financially and numerically weak.

The request comes as one of 12 goals rural churches are asked to reach during the period 1964-1968.

Chester L. Quarles of Jackson, chairman of the committee and executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention board, made the announcement.

"Many of our churches need to merge with other churches in order to strengthen the Baptist witness in their communities," he said.

"Such mergers would also enable these churches to provide an adequate salary for a pastor," he added.

Quarles said the 12 goals, which are a modern-day phase of 25-year goals set in 1954, cover such emphases as evangelism, stewardship, education, missions and other areas where rural churches need strengthening.

The committee classifies rural churches as those in population areas of 2,500 or less, and there are 23,281 such churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Quarles said the Long Range Rural Church Committee works closely with the urban-rural missions department of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

He said the goals of the committee will be implemented through this department, especially in promotion and in providing churches with information on how to reach them.

The goals, as formulated by the committee, are as follows:

- Every rural church maintaining a full-time educational program.
- Every rural church conducting a mission vacation Bible school, if practical.
- Every part-time rural church sharing the services of a pastor with another church or churches.
- Every financially and numerically weak church studying the possibility of merging with other churches.
- Every rural church holding at least one revival each year and reporting baptisms annually to the district association.
- 25 per cent of the rural churches participating in the church development ministry to achieve the objectives of the great commission.
- 10,000 rural pastors engaging in some type of in-service training sponsored by the denomination.
- 25 per cent increase in rural churches and their pastors participating in one of the retirement programs of the SBC Annuity Board.
- 15,000 rural churches subscribing to their state Baptist papers through church budget plans.
- Every rural church recognizing that God "uniquely calls" men to the gospel ministry and affording such men called of God opportunities to exercise their gifts.
- Every rural church emphasizing biblical preaching, moral integrity, denominational loyalty and world missions.
- 90 per cent of all rural churches operating with an annual budget, stressing tithing, sending regular (weekly, monthly, or quarterly) contributions on a percentage basis to associational missions and to world missions through the Cooperative Program.

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