

November 3, 1964

Illinois Tackles
Constitution Changes

JOLIET, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association here unanimously approved a five-point recommendation for new constitutional requirements to follow in conducting affairs of the state Baptist association.

It was the first of two such votes which have to be taken before the changes take effect. The next vote will come when the 1965 state association meets in Marion, Ill., Oct. 27-29.

The five points cover officers of the association and its board of directors, employment of new staff members, state association action on major expenditures, nominations for the board of directors, and a committee to handle future constitutional matters.

The changes would make the officers of the state association function in the same capacity as officers of the board of directors, and create a standing committee of 12 members to function as a committee on boards. This committee would nominate the members of the board of directors and some other association committees.

Action by the state association or the full board of directors would be required on new employees in the future. It could not be delegated to a committee of the directors. All votes on employment would have to be taken by secret ballot, rather by voice or hand-raised method.

The board of directors could not obligate the state association nor take it into debt beyond \$50,000 without associational authority. There has been no restriction to the present.

A standing committee on the constitution would report to the state association any violation of the constitution it observed.

The state association (equivalent of state convention) appointed a nine-member committee to study relocating state Baptist offices. They are now at Carbondale, in southern Illinois, where organized Southern Baptist work had its earliest development. The state association was formed in 1907, and has had offices in Carbondale since 1930.

A church in St. Charles, Ill., near Chicago, complained that offices are too distant from northern Illinois. Carbondale is 300 miles from Chicago. No alternative site was suggested.

The state association approved a Cooperative Program goal of \$810,000 for 1965, with 35 per cent to be shared with the Southern Baptist Convention. It heard a report that during the year ending Sept. 30, Cooperative Program income was \$820,535.

Maurice L. Swinford of Pinckneyville was reelected president of the state association. L. H. Moore of Carbondale relinquished his 13-year post as clerk to J. C. Greer of Sparta. Moore also is associate executive secretary of the association and editor of the weekly newspaper, the Illinois Baptist.

Resolutions touched on race, alcohol, pornographic literature and church-state separation.

Illinois Baptists called for friendlier relations between races but did not single out any method or issue for special attention. Alcohol and salacious literature were condemned. The traditional Baptist position of church-state separation was upheld.

The association also reaffirmed its desire to launch a home for senior citizens but did not appropriate funds nor set a time for founding it.

Texas New Life Crusade
Decisions Near 10,000

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP)--More than 9,500 decisions for Christ have been reaped by churches participating in the Latin American Baptist New Life Crusade held in Texas and border areas of Mexico and New Mexico.

About 3,700 of the decisions are professions of faith in Christ, including 1,687 conversions in local church revivals and 2,056 in central campaigns.

Though many of the churches have not yet submitted final reports, crusade leaders estimate total conversions at more than 5,000.

People of nearly all ages found new life in Christ during the crusade, including a 61-year-old crippled woman. She never left her room at night until the evening she hobbled down the aisle on her crutch to accept Christ as Savior.

Where church and auditorium space was inadequate or unavailable, meetings were held in tents, ball parks and even a deserted bowling alley.

Most of the conversions have come from the big Latin population areas of South Texas. Revival meetings in the Weslaco-Rio Grande City-McAllen area resulted in 321 professions of faith. San Antonio reported 430 conversions.

Other Texas cities include Harlingen with 260, Haskell with 228, Brownsville with 164, Houston with 175 and the Plains Baptist Assembly near Floydada with 105.

The crusade, which began as a statewide evangelistic effort at reaching more than two million unevangelized Latin Americans of the state with the gospel spread to Mexico and New Mexico.

In Matamoros, Mexico, a couple came on profession of faith at the close of a service, although they had been unable to get inside the packed church building to hear the sermon. They were among 117 who found Christ as Saviour during the revival meetings in the city.

A central campaign held under a tent in Las Cruces, N. M., resulted in 230 decisions for Christ, including 71 professions of faith.

With new converts enrolled in "new member" orientation classes wherever possible, Baptist leaders are seeking to evaluate the total significance of the crusade.

"Statistics cannot tell the full story," said T. A. Patterson, Dallas, Texas Baptists' executive secretary.

"The thousands of Latins won to Christ are cause for rejoicing; yet the realization that this 'state within a state' can be won to Christ may open even more glorious vistas."

Patterson said the crusade might be the spark that could "send a blaze of evangelism sweeping over Texas and into Mexico to change the future of civilization in this hemisphere."

E. S. James, Dallas, editor of the Baptist Standard, said the real significance of the crusade will not likely be fully realized in this generation. The 371,000-circulation Baptist Standard is the official weekly Texas Baptist publication.

"The encouragement given to the Latin American Baptists of Texas is immeasurable," James added. He called the crusade a big leap toward giving the message of evangelical Christianity to the two million Latin Americans in the state.

R. R. Machado, Cuba
Minister, Dies There

ATLANTA (BP)--Dr. R. R. Machado, Southern Baptist pastor, died in Cuba Oct. 25 of a heart condition, after a long ministry in Cuba, according to reports reaching Atlanta.

Machado belonged to that first group of ministerial students who met with the late Dr. M. N. McCall, then superintendent of Cuban mission work for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and other professors in the Baptist Temple in Havana, Cuba, to prepare themselves for the ministry.

Machado was pastor in various fields in his early ministry. He dedicated his greatest efforts to the church in La Vibora, Havana, where he was pastor for 27 years.

He received his doctor of law degree at Havana University.

"Machado was recognized as an eloquent preacher, a poet, and gifted teacher," says Herbert Caudill, superintendent of mission work in Cuba for the Home Mission Board.

He is survived by his widow and seven children, four girls and three boys.

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29th State Group
Joins Southern Baptists

11-3-64

By J. D. Gates

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--The newest state convention to join the Southern Baptist Convention family will be the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, which comes into being Jan. 1.

It was organized here by 363 people from the two states and from the sponsoring Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, with whom the two-state area has been affiliated to date.

It is the 29th state convention to cooperate with the SBC, and the first to be organized since Indiana Baptists formed a separate convention in 1959.

The convention's work will be guided by a 19-member executive board which will include four convention-elected officers and 15 other members at large, to come from the various parts of the Utah and Idaho area. These 15 will serve for three years, then rotate.

No executive secretary has been elected yet, though a nominating committee has been chosen. The new convention picked C. Raymond Cearley, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Mountain Home, Ida., as its first president.

It adopted a budget of \$149,821 for the first year. Of this, \$59,200 will come through Cooperative Program gifts, state mission offerings this year and next, and funds already saved.

The SBC Sunday School Board will provide another \$12,145 for jointly promoted work in religious education. The balance, nearly \$80,000, will have the SBC Home Mission Board as source, supporting joint state missions work in several fields.

An administrative staff of four is planned. The executive secretary will also serve as evangelism secretary and editor of any newspaper the convention launches. A missions secretary will serve also as associate executive secretary.

There will be a secretary of Woman's Missionary Union work and a secretary of religious education.

Plans also call for two state missionaries, two mountain missionaries and three language missionaries.

The 52 Southern Baptist churches and missions located in Utah and Idaho have a total of 6500 members. Last year these churches gave \$40,756 through the Cooperative Program. The new convention has voted to share 20 per cent of future Cooperative Program income with the SBC.

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Among the representatives from other Southern Baptist states and agencies at the formation service was Robert L. Lee of Alexandria, executive secretary, Louisiana Baptist Convention. Lee gave the new convention \$1,000 as a gift of the Louisiana Baptist executive board.

Charles H. Ashcraft of Las Vegas, Nev., president of the Arizona convention, was moderator of the constituting service.

J. P. Edmunds of Glorieta, N. M., represented the SBC Sunday School Board. R. Alton Reed of Dallas, executive secretary of the SBC Annuity Board, represented that agency.

From the nationwide Home Mission Board office in Atlanta came Courts Redford, executive secretary, and two other officers--A. B. Cash and Gerald Palmer. C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., director of the movement in the SBC to establish 30,000 new churches and missions, attended.

George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary, Brotherhood Commission; Frank K. Means, Richmond, area secretary for Latin America, Foreign Mission Board; Harold K. Graves, Mill Valley, Calif., president, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and W. C. Fields, Nashville, public relations secretary, Executive Committee, were other SBC officials present.

Charles McKay, Phoenix, executive secretary, participated on behalf of the parent Arizona convention. Miss Billie Pate, Birmingham, represented Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the SBC.

The new Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention expects to have its offices in Salt Lake City at an address to be chosen later. It will stage its 1965 convention in Mountain Home, Ida., Oct. 28-29.

No decision has been reached on a publication for the new convention.

The Salt Lake Baptist Association of churches puts out a monthly paper, four-page church bulletin size, called "Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Witness," which has helped inform people about the work there so far.

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SBC Could Reach
Goal In November

11-3-64

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention could reach its 1964 Cooperative Program budget in late November, and almost surely will by early December, based on the latest SBC treasurer's statement here.

Porter Routh of Nashville reported \$1,852,510 in Cooperative Program funds was received from 28 affiliated state Baptist bodies during October. This brought the 10-month total to \$17,177,207.

The Convention thus is only a little more than \$2 million shy of the year's objective of \$19,187,355. However, stewardship leaders have said the income will reach as high as \$20.7 million if earlier trends continue.

Cooperative Program receipts are running 8.12 per cent above the January through October position a year ago, when receipts stood at \$15,831,810. This is a little stronger showing than was evidenced on Sept. 30, when income for the nine months was running 8.27 per cent above the comparative figure for 1963.

Designations--gifts tagged for special purposes by the donors--amounted to \$188,794 in October and swelled the year's total to \$15,567,807. This is 5.64 per cent ahead of the previous year at this time.

Figures do not represent collections at local churches nor funds used by the 28 state Baptist bodies. They are only the amounts reaching the SBC for nationwide and worldwide activities.

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