

November 7, 1964

Alabama Minister  
Wins Seat In House

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A Baptist minister, John H. Buchanan Jr., has won a seat in Congress as a Republican representing metropolitan Birmingham, Alabama's largest city.

Although he has regularly preached since that time, Buchanan resigned from the full-time pastorate two years ago when he made his first bid, an unsuccessful one, for a seat in the House of Representatives. He led Republican office-seekers then in votes received.

He was the first pastor of Centercrest Baptist Church here, serving four years. The church, with nearly 400 members, has a new auditorium and education facilities.

The victorious candidate is the son of John H. Buchanan Sr., retired, who served as pastor of Southside Baptist Church here for 14 years. The elder Buchanan also was chaplain of Birmingham Baptist Hospitals.

Since early this year, 36-year-old John Buchanan Jr. has been chairman of the Republican Party in Jefferson County, of which Birmingham is seat. He won an upset victory, by a 2 to 1 margin, over incumbent Rep. George Huddleston Jr. (Dem.) who had been in the House since 1954.

Buchanan tied his campaign closely to the Goldwater program. He has also been finance director of the state Republican Party and president of the Alabama Republican Workshop.

After resigning his pulpit for the hustings, Buchanan moved his membership to Southside Church here, the church where he was youth director, under his father, at one time. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Buchanan entered politics because of what he described as immorality in the nation, the trend toward centralization of government in Washington, and the gradual loss of constitutional government. He added he wanted to be elected as a conservative to help preserve America's rights and liberties.

His victory statement contained these words, "I will work consistently toward a return to constitutional government in our country and toward a foreign policy aimed at total victory over world communism."

When he made his move two years ago, Buchanan told his father, "Dad, in 1917 you resigned your pastorate and left your wife and baby to go to France in World War I to fight against an enemy of America.

"I see an enemy within our country now, driving us toward socialism and away from the Constitution of our country, and for this reason I am going into this race (the 1962 effort) as a dedicated Christian to do my part in restoring morality, security and fiscal responsibility in Washington."

He served two interim pastorates in the Birmingham area after leaving Centercrest Church, one at Leeds and another at Trussville. He has preached nearly every Sunday during that period, as interim pastor or as a pulpit supply in absence of a pastor.

Golden Gate Gives  
'Gateway' Genesis

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A new publication called "Gateway" has been started at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Assistant to the President Carl M. Halvarson said, "We are hoping through this new format and design to better communicate Golden Gate Seminary to people throughout the Southern Baptist Convention."

"Gateway" will appear four times a year.

"The Span," an existing seminary publication, now will become the official alumni association publication. It will probably be issued quarterly in another format, Halvarson reported.

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Texas Baptist Chaplain  
Dies Of Heart Attack

11-7-64

GALVESTON, Tex. (BP)--John R. Breland, director of the first Texas Baptist chaplain's program, at John Sealy Hospital here, died of a heart attack Oct. 29 in Liberty, Tex.

Funeral services for the 60-year-old former pastor were at First Baptist Church of Liberty under the direction of James Basden, secretary of the Texas Baptist human welfare commission. Burial was in Decatur, Miss.

Breland was born May 26, 1904, near Philadelphia, Miss., and graduated from Mississippi College (Baptist) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jewel Breland; a son, John Harold Breland of Columbia, S. C., and daughter, Mrs. Dennis Johnson of Richardson, Tex.

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Mississippi Tops Goal

11-7-64

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi Baptist Convention reported Cooperative Program receipts for the 1964 fiscal year ending Oct. 31 topped the year's goal of \$2,786,000. It reached \$2,802,330. This is 9.8 per cent higher than the previous year's gifts. It is the largest for any year in convention history.

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Alaska Churches  
Shake Off Quake

11-7-64

ANCHORAGE (BP)--With one exception, churches in the area of Alaska hardest hit by the March earthquake are faring better than they were at that time.

Income seems to be at an all-time high for the churches. Attendance records are being broken and the number of baptisms of converts has increased, according to William H. Hansen of Anchorage, executive secretary, Alaska Baptist Convention.

The lone exception is Valdez. This town took the brunt of the quake. The 12-year-old Baptist church there was reaching about 75 persons for Sunday school before the earthquake.

Over one-third of the residents of Valdez have not returned to their homes and many never will. The church has slightly more than half its previous membership strength.

Already, Valdez has begun to relocate as a city, about four miles from the old townsite. The church will probably build in the new location next spring, after the heavy snow which blankets Valdez in the winter has melted.

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For the time being, the church, like community homeowners, has made temporary repairs to its building. The log meeting house was heavily damaged.

For several months after the disaster, Alaska appeared to stand still. No one seemed to know where to turn, Hansen reported. The necessary clean-up operation went on.

However, after soil studies were made, and money was found to rebuild, activity picked up. By the end of the summer, a new surge was evident in construction and other basic industry.

One Anchorage church is building now to meet the new needs, and several other Baptist churches have scheduled construction next summer.

Damage to Southern Baptist churches in the 49th state totaled \$36,070 because of the earthquake. Most of this was at Valdez, the rest at Anchorage and Seward. Several Anchorage churches suffered damage over \$1000 each.

Greater Friendship Baptist Church, Anchorage, a Negro church cooperating with the Alaska convention, did not discover until after the spring thaw that a corner had sunk in its block building. The repair bill--\$7000.

Calvary Baptist Church, also at Anchorage, investigated the cause of water leaking to a ceiling near the church's huge chimney. It found the top 20 feet of the chimney, made of poured concrete, had broken loose during the quake and had displaced some roof joists near it, causing the leaking.

A large crane had to be summoned to lift off the seven-ton section of chimney before it could be replaced with a new portion. Had these 14,000 pounds crashed during the tremors, the chimney would almost certainly have rumbled through three stories to the basement in its fall, according to Hansen.

After the disaster, friends of Alaska Baptists contributed to a fund to help churches. To date, Hansen said, \$7064 has been received through the Alaska convention's earthquake emergency fund.

The Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board also gave \$10,000 to repair damaged churches. Later, the board forgave a loan of \$2970 to the church at Valdez.

"Seven months after the quake the message from Alaska is one of optimism," Hansen declared. "The possibility of a setback for Baptist work has not materialized, and church income has not decreased.

"Baptists under the North Star are moving on to claim a vast new pioneer land for Christ."

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Arkansas, California  
Reject Gambling Bids

11-7-64

By the Baptist Press

Constitutional amendments designed to permit legalized gambling were decisively rejected in the general elections by voters in Arkansas and California. In both cases, an intensive campaign was waged and the issues widely debated.

The Arkansas voters decided against a proposal to legalize casino gambling in Garland County, of which Hot Springs is seat. Californians voted down a proposal to establish a lottery that would give a private corporation exclusive license to operate within their state.

In the California election, there was an apparent shift in public opinion. Early in the campaign, the California poll had projected victory for the gambling interests, but the voters were 4 to 1 against legalization.

Editor J. Terry Young of the California Southern Baptist at Fresno warned that the election victory "by no means ends the gambling problem in California." Young pointed out much of the opposition to the gambling amendment centered against the private corporation which would control the gambling.

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"Churches, businessmen and the state Baptist paper led out in fighting the issue," Young stated, "but much more needs to be done to arouse public conscience against the moral evil of gambling."

An organization known as Churches United Against Gambling received major credit for rolling back the bid to legalize casino gambling in the Hot Springs resort area. Erwin L. McDonald of Little Rock, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, credited the organization for counteracting a multimillion dollar propaganda effort by the pro-gambling interests.

"This was the finest interdenominational effort I have seen," said McDonald. He pointed to cooperation of Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God and Christian churches.

"Anti-gambling statements in both of Little Rock's newspapers, articles in church papers, and full-page ads sponsored by businessmen all helped to create a climate against the gambling amendment," McDonald declared.

A Southern Baptist Convention official saw these efforts to legalize gambling as part of a massive national effort. Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, stated:

"It is increasingly apparent that gambling interests throughout the nation have launched an all-out program to remove those legal barriers which have thwarted their sinister profiteering. The lesson we must all learn from elections in California and Arkansas is that legalized gambling can and must be defeated through the creative response of an aroused Christian citizenry." (BP)

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Group Suggests Work  
Of Missions Committee

11-7-64

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist interagency group has suggested a plan of work for the missions committee of a church, including its purpose, responsibility, and relationships.

The information came from Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, director of the missions division of the Home Mission Board of the SBC.

Rutledge released a consensus reached by representatives of the Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Sunday School Board, and the mission agency. The commission and two boards are SBC agencies. The Woman's union is a Convention auxiliary.

They sought the agreement for use in developing the program definitions of the Home Mission Board and its relationships with other Baptist organizations.

The purposes of the missions committee were suggested as the following: (1) to discover possibilities for local missions projects, (2) to share findings with church program organizations, and (3) to serve the church in establishing and conducting such mission projects as may be assigned to it.

"We feel this agreement marks a distinct step forward in the correlation of local mission action as it is encouraged by SBC agencies," Rutledge said.

The committee would be responsible for surveying and analyzing possibilities for local mission projects such as launching new churches, ministering to language or cultural groups and the socially handicapped, and conducting mission center work, or work in institutions.

Also the committee would work with the church finance committee to secure needed financial support of mission projects, and the committee will "procure facilities, prescribe operating procedures, and operate missions projects assigned to it by the church."

Rutledge stressed the section defining relationships, noting that the committee works with the church council for coordination of the work with the mission activities of the church program organizations.

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The committee would also maintain communication with the association missions committee concerning mission needs in the association, keeping the church informed and helping meet these needs.

"As a result of this agreement Wendell Belew, leader of the church extension program for the Home Mission Board, will work with representatives of other agencies in the correlation of plans and materials by which the agencies may assist churches and associations in local mission work," Rutledge said.

Individuals taking part in discussing the work of the missions committee were Miss Alma Hunt, Mrs. R. L. Mathis and Mrs. Robert Fling of Woman's Missionary Union; George W. Schroeder of the Brotherhood commission, W. L. Howse of the Sunday School Board, and Rutledge.

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#### Michigan Provides For Student Work

11-7-64

ROSEVILLE, Mich. (BP)--The 1964 Baptist State Convention of Michigan here voted to buy space in a new religious activities building on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit.

The building will provide offices for directors of student work for various denominations, each of which will buy the space for its own office. A joint conference room will be used by all the student religious groups, scheduling their events as needed.

The Wayne State campus is close to the office building of the Baptist convention in the city. The university has 20,000 students. The Baptist Student Union on the campus has 30 people, and the work is directed by a graduate student attending school there-- Chester Halstead.

Michigan messengers adopted a record budget for 1965 totaling \$434,613. The Cooperative Program goal is \$226,729, of which 25 per cent will be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and world missions.

Hubert G. Keefer, pastor at St. Clair Shores, Mich., was reelected convention president. Portage, Mich., was selected as site for the next convention, Nov. 3-4, 1965.

The convention honored Fred D. Hubbs of Detroit who is the convention's executive secretary. He has completed 12 years of service in Michigan.

K. Owen White of Houston, past president of the SBC, was one of the main speakers at the annual meeting here.

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#### Arkansas Worker Moves To Alaska

11-7-64

ANCHORAGE (BP)--Allen H. Meeks of North Little Rock, Ark., has accepted the call of the Alaska Baptist Convention here to serve as its secretary of religious education.

Meeks has been serving Baring Cross Baptist Church in North Little Rock as minister of education for the past year. He formerly served churches in Pascagoula, Miss.; Eldorado, Ark., and Searcy, Ark. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He planned to accept the new position immediately.

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Arkansas Debating  
College Questions

EL DORADO, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention was asked here to consider taking over control and support of a 25-year-old private Baptist junior college in northeast Arkansas.

Referred to the convention's executive board was the request from the trustees of Southern Baptist College and the college's president and founder, H. E. Williams. The college is located at Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Trustees of the college are not presently elected by the Arkansas convention. However, since 1949, the convention has appropriated funds annually to help support the college. Convention appropriations now run up to \$35,000 a year.

The college, which has a current enrolment of 358 students, was accredited last year by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Enrolment, steadily rising, jumped from 244 a year ago.

No opposition was expressed at the 1964 session here when the request was referred to the executive board. The board will apparently be faced with the questions of heavier financial support which would go with control, a method for convention election of trustees and the future direction of the college.

Arkansas Baptists now control only one college--Ouachita College at Arkadelphia. The 1965 session may be faced also with the issue of whether Ouachita may accept federal education grants to keep its plant equal to the increasing enrolment.

Ouachita President Ralph A. Phelps Jr. broadly hinted such may be the possibility when he discussed with the convention the college's future needs in the way of buildings, a larger faculty and greater endowment.

The convention which may face both these questions will meet next Nov. 15-17 in Little Rock. Walter L. Yeldell of Hot Springs will again preside.

The 1964 convention, which met during the national election in the United States, found messengers--a slimmer crowd than usual because of the national event--more interested in a statewide political and moral issue than perhaps in the convention's own doings.

Baptists had been leaders in the battle to defeat a bid for legalized gambling in Hot Springs, which was on the state ballot along with the race for President, governor and the Congress. The gambling proposal was defeated.

They approved a Cooperative Program goal for the convention in 1965 amounting to \$2,151,169. Thirty-seven per cent is for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptist College is located on what, during World War II, was a military base. Though some of the military buildings are used, the school has a new student center and library. It is not deeply in debt, according to college officials.

About one-third of the pastors in Arkansas have studied at the school, estimated one report given to the convention here. It will be 25 years old in 1966, when the trustees and president hope the state convention assumes its control and operation.

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Texas Debates Long  
Over Policy Changes

11-7-64

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Texas Baptists, after lengthy debate and disagreement over proposed constitutional changes, ended their 1964 state convention here with a united spirit in the cause of missions among Latin Americans.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas concluded with a Latin American missions-emphasis session. It featured reports on a recent Texas Baptist evangelistic crusade among the state's Latin Americans. Evangelist Angel Martinez of Fort Smith, Ark., brought the message during the session.

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The crusade has broken down barriers of communication and understanding between Anglos and Latins in Texas, and has resulted in more than 5000 professions of faith and nearly 13,000 total decisions, reported convention Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson of Dallas.

Earlier the same day, the convention hotly debated constitutional changes. Th lengthy discussions included dozens of motions, ballots and confusing results.

Messengers voted down constitutional changes that would limit the terms of convention officers to one year, and would give a committee authority to nominate all trustees without further nominations from the floor.

Constitutional changes approved basically will prevent a trustee from serving on more than one board, with certain exceptions; prohibit a state or Southern Baptist Convention employe from serving on the state Baptist executive board, and prevent a trustee from naming his successor by resigning in favor of another person, or from resigning to be nominated for another board.

The convention adopted a \$12 million missions budget that will provide \$4,074,054 to the Southern Baptist Convention's nationwide and worldwide causes. It reelected Abner V. McCall of Waco as convention president. McCall is president of Baylor University, largest Baptist school.

Without debate or discussion, the Texas convention unanimously adopted resolutions assuring President Lyndon B. Johnson of the prayers of Baptists; urging Texas Baptists to oppose communism and the tactics of hate, slander and half-truth the Communists use, and expressing opposition to legalized gambling and legislation on liquor by the drink.

A strong recommendation from the state Christian life commission urged Baptists to work positively and creatively in the crucial area of race relations; commended churches, schools and hospitals which minister to all races, and suggested that churches observe next Feb. 14 as Race Relations Sunday.

In the annual presidential address, McCall said unless Baptists apply Christianity to changing social conditions of today, the denomination would become "stuck in yesterday and gradually disappear."

He pleaded with Baptists to quit criticizing the "social gospel," because the denomination has preached and practiced the social gospel on a limited basis since its early days.

Baptists applied religious principles to the problems of their communities--drinking, gambling and immorality--and that in effect was the social gospel, McCall said.

He counseled Baptists to be more concerned with the problems of the modern world, such as poverty, ignorance, prejudice, bigotry, intolerance, materialism, dishonesty and cynicism and corruption in business and government.

American Convention  
Changes Budget Name

11-7-64

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--The name "unified budget" will be changed to "American Baptist Mission Budget," effective Jan. 1.

This was voted by the American Baptist Convention in Atlantic City, N. J., last May. Convention leaders said many American Baptists react negatively to the term "unified budget." It lacks a challenging appeal.

Also, they said, it gets confused with the term "unified budget" used to describe the budgets of local churches.

Convention leaders hope the new name, with the word "mission," will imply what it represents--namely, mission work provided through a denominationwide mission budget. They hope the word "mission" will evoke enthusiastic support and endorsement.

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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