

November 17, 1964

Florida Votes Site  
For Junior College

TAMPA, Fla. (BP)--A site for Florida Baptists' new junior college has been picked.

The Florida Baptist State Convention voted here to accept the gift of 200 acres near West Palm Beach for the campus. The convention also received a commitment from Palm Lake Baptist Association of churches to raise locally \$1.5 million for academic facilities.

The college grounds are in Lake Park, Fla., near the Sunshine State Parkway, the four-lane toll road from Wildwood, Fla., to North Miami.

The gift is from Royal American Industries, Inc., which is associated with John D. MacArthur, developer and founder of Palm Beach Gardens.

The Florida convention instructed its education commission to present to the 1965 session in Fort Lauderdale the objectives for the coeducational college. The commission will also nominate 15 trustees on a three-year rotation basis and study with the state Baptist board of missions the matter of a budget for the new school.

No target date for opening has been set, though the aim is to enrol 300 students the first year of operation.

The man who for 32 years has been superintendent of Florida Baptist Children's home, T. M. Johns of Lakeland, was elected new convention president.

Dates for the 1965 meeting are Nov. 9-11. In 1966, the convention will go to Pensacola.

A resolution passed by the Floridians is the one suggested to state conventions by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington. It urges "churches and.. members to use every contact and influence toward a worldwide understanding of the nature and principles of religious liberty..."

It also puts the convention on record reaffirming "its commitment to the religious liberty provisions of the first amendment and to their practice as national policy for the United States."

The convention also called on affiliated churches to observe a day of prayer for "personal and national repentance and rededication."

It presented a pageant honoring John Maguire on his 20th anniversary as executive secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention. A cast of 70 Tampa Baptists depicted highlights of state Baptist work under his leadership.

The record \$2.9 million Cooperative Program 1965 budget will provide 43 per cent of receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention, compared with 42 per cent this year.

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Missouri Officer's  
17-Year-Old Son Dies

11-17-64

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--John Nelson, 17, died in a Columbia, Mo., medical center Nov. 13 of injuries received in a one-car accident 22 miles south of Jefferson City two days before.

Nelson, son of T. W. Nelson, Jefferson City, was with two other people on their way home from Windermere Baptist Assembly. The youth's father is executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Foundation.

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Ohio Sets Goals  
To Reach By 1974

HAMILTON, Ohio (BP)--Ohio Southern Baptists, looking forward to their second decade as an organized state convention, have set a goal of 150,000 members in 1000 churches and missions by 1974.

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, at its 1964 session here, set the goals, which nearly triple present membership of 57,500 and more than double the present 436 churches and missions.

The convention was launched in 1954 with about 10,000 members of 51 churches and missions.

The hoped-for 1974 state convention budget of \$1,260,000 is nearly twice the present \$700,899 budget.

Other goals set by Ohio Southern Baptists include:

- \* Student work on every college campus in Ohio.
- \* At least one chair of Bible education program related to a university in the state.
- \* A child care program other than through an insitutional type children's home.
- \* A year-round program of activity at Seneca Lake Assembly, achieved by winterizing buildings there and by employing a resident manager.
- \* A state Baptist foundation with a full-time secretary to direct it.
- \* A Southern Baptist ministry in every county in Ohio.
- \* A 16-page edition each week of the Ohio Baptist Messenger, where there are only eight pages now.

\*Increased enrolment in Sunday school, Training Union, Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union and other church organizations.

Roy J. Fish, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fairborn, was elected new convention president. The next meeting of the convention will be in Columbus Nov. 9-11, 1965.

In a resolution adopted the convention called on Baptists to pray for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

For 1965, the convention passed a total budget of \$754,117 and a Cooperative Program goal--part of the total--of \$126,500. Division between state and Southern Baptist Convention work is 70 - 30 per cent of the \$126,500, with the larger sum for state work.

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Louisiana Reviews  
Hospital Request

11-17-64

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The relationship of Homer Memorial Hospital, Homer, La., to the Louisiana Baptist Convention will be reviewed during the year ahead.

The 1964 session of the convention here voted this review after the hospital petitioned for the right to incorporate, saying this was necessary to borrow money.

The Homer hospital is operated by the Baptist state convention under a lease from the Homer city government, a lease drawn up about 15 years ago and running through 1969.

The convention review of its ties with Homer Memorial Hospital was prompted by the fact the city government had accepted federal funds under the Hill-Burton Act to build it. Afterward, it was leased to Louisiana Baptists to operate. The convention has studied its relationship to the hospital at least once before in 1959.

The convention, in another action, okayed Louisiana College's request to engage in a

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\$3 million fund-raising campaign, beginning at once. The campaign, extending into 1966, will be for funds for capital expansion.

In keeping with convention financial policy, the campaign will be conducted among individuals and not through cooperating churches in the convention.

This same financial policy caused a plea from the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home at Monroe to run aground. The children's home wanted executive board permission to stage a Mother's Day special offering for the home in 1965.

Louisiana, unlike many other Baptist state conventions, supports its children's home through its annual Cooperative Program budget.

This state convention budget, as passed by the 1964 session, will be \$2,850,000 next year. Of this, 31.4 per cent will go to the Southern Baptist Convention for missions outside Louisiana. Beyond the \$2,850,000 budget is an advance goal of \$100,000, with 25 per cent of this earmarked for the SBC.

Scott L. Tatum, pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, was reelected convention president. The next session of the convention will be held in Shreveport, Nov. 16-18.

The convention agreed for Baton Rouge General Hospital, another of its institutions, to extend its debt ceiling to \$2.5 million to expand to a 450-bed hospital. It opposed any increase in public school teachers' salaries paid for by revenue from liquor taxes.

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Arizona Hits 'Ban'  
On School Religion

11-17-64

PHOENIX (BP)--What was interpreted as a criticism of the U. S. Supreme Court for its rulings in public school religion cases was contained in a resolution adopted here by the 1964 session of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

The resolution did not name the Supreme Court but did call attention to "evidence of a concerted effort on the part of some to destroy the faith of the American people in God." The teaching of evolution and "the banning of the use of the Bible and prayer in our public schools" was offered to support the position taken by Arizona Baptists.

The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention is the official title of the state Baptist body in Arizona related to the nationwide Southern Baptist Convention, but the state body, because of its similar title, should not be confused with the national organization.

The convention passed a Cooperative Program budget of \$392,000, with the SBC receiving one-fifth of this to support missions outside Arizona. These funds are raised through churches. Including other income, the total budget for 1965 in Arizona runs to \$729,604.

Messengers said farewell to 6500 people who belong to 50 churches and two missions located in Utah and Idaho. These churches previously were affiliated with the Arizona convention. Effective Jan. 1, they will be affiliated with a new Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, a separate state Baptist body.

This left the Arizona convention with 201 churches and 125 missions cooperating with it. These have a total of 58,000 members. With the exception of a few in Nevada, these churches are in the state of Arizona.

However, the president of the Arizona convention, reelected for another term, is pastor of one of the Nevada churches. He is Charles H. Ashcraft of Las Vegas. The convention picked Tucson for its 1965 convention, Nov. 17-19. Phoenix will again be host city in 1966.

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Oklahoma Gives College  
Vote of Confidence

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--Oklahoma Baptists have reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of separation of church and state and given a vote of confidence to the administration of Oklahoma Baptist University.

A resolution passed by the 1964 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma specified that the principle of separation of church and state be applied in such matters as: (1) opposing any alteration of the first amendment, (2) instructing all convention agencies and institutions to refuse any federal funds that could in any way be construed as grants or subsidies, and (3) admonishing local churches and associations to refuse materials or services that represent tax dollars.

The group also voted to resist ecumenical involvement, but at the same time to urge church members to involve themselves in community, state and national efforts for moral improvement and social betterment.

The group also voted to express "confidence in the trustees and administration of Oklahoma Baptist University in their sincere efforts to handle with discretion and propriety the many delicate problems confronting them."

The expression of confidence, passed in a close vote, was made in the form of a substitute motion placed before the convention after an Oklahoma City pastor proposed a statement of principles to the administration and trustees of the college.

In the proposal, which never was voted upon because of the substitute motion, the minister called for a "thorough analysis of the prevalent doctrinal beliefs of the faculty," asked that faculty members be required to subscribe to the Southern Baptist statement of faith and belong to a Southern Baptist church. It also asked for better screening of prospective faculty members.

In an address to the convention earlier, James R. Scales, Shawnee, the college's president, said "Christian education has too many apologies, and I am tired of apologies for excellence.

"OBU has produced more Southern Baptist foreign missionaries now under appointment than any other college," Scales pointed out.

"I think OBU is going to stay in the mainstream of international concern," he said. He also pointed out the "absolute necessity of the brightest young people moving into the area of foreign service."

"Foreign missions has always brought out the best side of Southern Baptist," Scales said. "When we have had internal denominational strife, we have healed the fellowship through foreign missions."

The 1965 state convention will meet Nov. 9-11 at Oklahoma City.

Elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was Jack Carroll, pastor, First Baptist Church, Seminole, Okla.

The election of John Daniel as recording secretary marked the retired pastor's 40th year as an elected official of the state convention.

In other action, the convention approved a Cooperative Program budget of \$2,860,000. The budget provided that \$1,201,200, or 42 per cent of funds received through the Cooperative Program, be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention for missions outside the state.

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Baptist Record, weekly newspaper of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, has passed the 100,000 mark in circulation for the first time in the paper's 88-year history. Joe T. Odle of Jackson, editor, said the circulation figure now stands at 100,665. This is the fourth state publication in the Southern Baptist Convention to top 100,000.

Kentucky Debates  
Alien Immersion

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The 1964 session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention here voted to "affectionately advise our affiliating churches to refrain from receiving any immersion" performed except those under "authority of a regularly organized Baptist church."

The action is advisory only, rather than binding, on churches. The convention reportedly has never made this a test of fellowship, and a move which might have made it a test of fellowship was defeated by a narrow margin.

The action of the convention was prompted by word that some churches were receiving people into membership, by transfer of churches, from other denominations without rebaptizing them. The issue on alien immersion, as it is known, had become tense locally among churches in Lexington, Ky., earlier

The Western Recorder, convention weekly publication here, commented editorially that the votes in the convention session show a number of churches and even more pastors are departing from the historic position that many Baptists have held on alien immersion.

The Kentucky convention culminated three years of indecision over the question of federal aid to its institutions by asking them not to receive or solicit grants from the government. The convention also said it would make every effort possible to borrow money for its institutions from non-governmental sources.

A committee of 15 will be appointed by the convention president to work with the Christian education committee of the convention. Together, they will devise a means of securing enough loans from non-governmental sources to meet the immediate capital needs of Kentucky Baptist institutions.

Seventy per cent of churches in the state answering a survey said they open their membership to people "on a New Testament basis of faith in Christ" regardless of their race. Seventeen per cent said membership is open only to whites. Five per cent said membership excluded Negroes, but not other races.

Seven per cent of the churches report no official policy on receiving members and 1 per cent said the church position was "indefinite." The survey was carried out during the past year by the convention's public affairs committee. It was responded to by 15 per cent of the 2200 churches queried.

The convention's three hospitals, six schools and three children's homes said they are open to all races. This does not mean every state Baptist institution now has Negroes, however, but "in some instances the practice had not adequately caught up with the official policy."

Although the number of churches responding was small, it was believed to be a representative group since replies came from 65 of the 83 district associations of churches in Kentucky. The 15 per cent responding make up one-fourth of the total Baptist church membership in the state.

Franklin Owen, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, was elected convention president. The convention voted to meet in Lexington in 1965, Nov. 10-12. It adopted a Cooperative Program goal for 1965 amounting to \$3 million, with the Southern Baptist Convention share set at 35.6 per cent. The convention added a \$100,000 goal beyond this to meet college capital needs.

### Hawaii Reduces Size Of Executive Board

HONOLULU (BP)--The Hawaii Baptist Convention accepted here without change, a report of its long-range planning committee. The report reduced the number of executive board members from 36 to 27 and set up a rotating system instead of annual election of this board. The report defines the functioning relationships of convention committees, the Executive Board and its committees.

The convention voted opposition of bus subsidy for pupils to private and parochial schools from tax funds. This had been a strong issue in the political campaign in the City and County of Honolulu. The convention also resolved against legalizing a state lottery system which is being considered by the state government.

The convention urged participation of Baptists in the Billy Graham Hawaii Crusade, scheduled for the Honolulu International Center Feb. 14-21 with neighbor island crusades Feb. 21-27. Honolulu Chief of Police Dan Liu, a Baptist deacon, has been selected as chairman of the Billy Graham Hawaii Crusade.

Abraham Kuni, captain of the Rescue Squad of Honolulu, member of the Olivet Baptist Church, who had been selected as "Employee of the Year" for Hawaii, was commended because of his outstanding Christian character.

Dan Kong, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, was reelected as convention president. Col. Andy Chaffin, a layman, member of First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor, and stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, was elected second vice-president.

The 1964 convention approved a mortgage church loan plan which would provide of upward to \$2 million in loans at 5½ per cent to churches affiliated with the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

The convention voted a feasibility study on location of the convention offices and Baptist Book Store building.

A 1965 budget of \$489,386 was adopted as recommended by the executive board.

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**NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**  
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