

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

June 26, 1952

MUSIC, EDUCATION DIRECTOR
GETS 4D DRAFT STATUS

CONCORD, N. C. --(BP)-- President Truman has opened the way for an equal draft status of Southern Baptist ministers and ministers of music and education by recently authorizing a 4D classification for Roy E. Holder, minister of music and education of the McGill Street Baptist Church in Concord.

Holder's new classification is the first known one granted a Southern Baptist full-time lay religious worker since the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Miami, Florida, recently, voted to petition the Selective Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to "authorize the same deferment classification for our full-time denominationally-certified, vocational lay religious workers as that accorded similar workers in other denominations, if the individual so desires such classification..."

Holder's draft board in High Point, N. C., sent a notice of his new status to Dr. Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, stating that the reclassification had been on presidential order.

A second clause in the petition sent by the Baptists to Selective Service Headquarters asked for "the same classification to our students in college, seminaries, and training schools who are preparing for full-time lay religious work and who are properly certified by their denomination, if the individual so desires such classification."

--30--

BAPTIST NAVY CHAPLAIN
WOUNDED IN KOREA

WASHINGTON, D.C. --(BP)-- Lieutenant Robert H. Willets, Southern Baptist Navy chaplain serving with the 1st Marine Division in Korea, was wounded in action on June 11. His wounds were not serious and he was not evacuated from the battlefield, according to the report from the Chaplains Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Chaplain Willet lists his home as Gainesville, Florida.

--30--

SAN ANDRES MISSIONARIES
RETURN IN NEW SEA CRAFT

FREEPORT, Tex. --(BP)-- The C. W. McCulloughs, Southern Baptist missionaries on a group of islands off the coast of Nicaragua, now have a way to get from island to island and to the mainland. In fact, they have their own passage back to their headquarters on San Andres island, one of the larger in their island group.

The first sea-going vessel to be owned by the Foreign Mission Board was dedicated here recently before the McCulloughs set sail to return to their post after a year's furlough in the states.

The McCulloughs are beginning their eleventh year of work with the English-speaking inhabitants of the islands, which belong to Columbia.

The purchase of the vessel was made possible through a special appropriation in the Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas offering each year.

--30--

TEXAS BAPTISTS SET
RECORD '53 BUDGET

DALLAS, Tex. --(BP)-- A \$12,000,000 budget for 1953, an increase of \$2,000,000 over this year's, was set up by Texas Baptist leaders at their executive board meeting in Dallas recently. It is probably the record budget for any denominational group in one state.

Pending acceptance by the convention's annual meeting in October, the budget includes \$3,000,000 for the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program and another \$3,000,000 for the state's cooperative enterprises, including eleven schools and six hospitals. The additional \$6,000,000 is for building and endowment for the same schools and hospitals.

--30--

OKLAHOMA CITY CHURCH PLEDGES
\$147,000 ON YOUTH BUILDING

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. --(BP)-- Members of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City pledged \$147,000 in one Sunday for the building fund of their youth building now under construction, according to Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor.

The pledges are all for gifts above the members' regular gifts to the church budget.

--30--

SUGGESTIONS COMING IN
FOR HOUSTON CONVENTION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- A number of suggestions for improving the program and procedures of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual sessions have been received by Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee in Nashville.

In passing the suggestions on to the Committee on Order of Business, Routh points out that the suggestions have been neither considered nor approved by the Executive Committee but are forwarded only for information and further consideration.

1. "Why not close the program on Saturday noon? You could have a big evangelistic service on Friday night if you wanted, and plan to close everything out Saturday noon. There would always be plenty of pastors left to fill the pulpits of local churches on Sunday morning, but those who wanted to could be home to preach in their own pulpits on Sunday."

2. "Why not have the mornings devoted entirely to business, reserve the afternoons for committee meetings, sightseeing, and resting, and have the great inspirational hours at night? This would encourage messengers to attend all of the sessions which are scheduled and would leave some time free."

3. "Why not put an adjournment hour on the night programs, and then stick to it? The preliminaries should be shorter or the introductory section made more brief so that the main speaker would have more time, if there is a main speaker, and yet not have to keep the crowd up most of the night."

4. "Give more time to reports with recommendations so the messengers would not feel they were taking the time of the next speaker if they asked a question. A large democratic body like the Southern Baptist Convention can function at its best only when sufficient time is given to hear all sides of the question at hand. And a decision can be made on the basis of facts rather than impassioned appeals."

Any further suggestions for the program should be sent to Rev. A. B. VanArsdale, College Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, who is chairman of the Committee on Order of Business.