

March 3, 1965

Guaranty Fund May
Widen Loan Usefulness

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board received authority here to work with state Baptist groups to make available a guaranty loan fund.

The guaranty loan fund might multiply the usefulness of the board's loan funds five times, and perhaps even more, without making the board legally or morally responsible beyond the guaranty loan fund deposit.

The fund would implement a church loan program within the state Baptist conventions. Either a bond program, or bank financing, or both would be involved.

One advantage of the guaranty loan fund would be that it would help churches in pioneer mission areas establish a credit rating with local banks. The Home Mission Board would make a guaranty loan deposit with the banks, at the request of state Baptist groups, and the banks would make the loans to churches.

The action of the SBC Executive Committee here in granting authority to the Home Mission Board was in keeping with an earlier decision of the SBC proper.

A special subcommittee of the Executive Committee which studied the church loan situation reported back to the full committee; "Our study indicates that a portion of the money available through denominational channels for church loans could probably be used to better advantage in guaranty funds than in direct loans.

"Our study indicates that a guaranty fund of \$100,000, for example, would secure an investment of at least \$500,000 in church loans or bonds by a bank or other investor. Thus it appears the judicious use of guaranty funds could be the means of attracting substantial new money into church financing."

The subcommittee called the principle of guaranty funds "sound" and said exact amounts and details "would have to be carefully developed." The \$100,000 and \$500,000 were used only to illustrate a 5-to-1 ratio, and were not to be taken as fixed amounts.

The dollar amounts and the ratios would vary from state to state and bank to bank. One bank might find Baptist credit good enough to have a ratio higher than 5-to-1, an Executive Committee officer explained.

Here's how the loan fund would help churches in pioneer mission areas get needed loans and at the same time develop a credit rating:

From its church extension loan fund, at the request of the state Baptist convention, the Home Mission Board would deposit \$100,000 with a bank for a guaranty loan fund. (Again the amount and ratio are simply illustrations.)

Applying the 5-to-1 ratio, the bank would agree to loan up to \$500,000 to Southern Baptist churches in the state for building programs. The bank would clearly understand that it (the bank) assumed all risks for the \$400,000 above the deposited amount in case of delinquent loans.

Churches wanting loans would apply to the bank for them. The bank would check with the state Baptist convention to make sure the churches were cooperating Southern Baptist churches. The bank would loan the money to the churches after making its own investigation of the credit risks.

If the bank used the 5-to-1 ratio, it would not make loans to Southern Baptist churches beyond the total amount of \$500,000. The bank would be free to accept or reject the loan application of any church, since the bank would assume credit risks above the \$100,000 deposit.

Meantime, the \$100,000 deposit would be earning the bank's regular interest--for example, 4 per cent--for the Home Mission Board. The churches who received the loans would pay the established bank interest rate--for example, of 6 per cent.

The churches which received loans would be legally and morally responsible for repaying them.

Churches in pioneer states--where Southern Baptist work is new or in early stages of growth--often have no local credit rating and thus can not get money from local banks. The guaranty fund deposit would encourage the banks to make loans. By repaying the loans on time, the churches would establish credit for themselves and could negotiate future loans independently of the guaranty fund.

These churches have been borrowing money direct from the Home Mission Board's loan funds, but this of course does little or nothing to help them establish credit with local banks.

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Mississippi Committee
To Let Students Rebuild

3-3-65

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Plans have been made by the interfaith Committee of Concern to give opportunity to college students in Mississippi, both Negro and white, to volunteer to help rebuild burned Negro church buildings in the state.

A subcommittee, composed of the directors of student work of several denominations in the state, was appointed to direct the program of work of the students.

Named as chairman of the subcommittee was Jack Loflin, Jackson, director of youth work, Mississippi Conference of The Methodist Church. (The conference is the equivalent of a state organization.)

Loflin said tentative plans called for the students to participate during spring holidays and weekends. They would help in painting, cleaning, decorating, landscaping and similar work.

A progress report issued by the committee revealed that \$60,497 had been collected by the committee to date and that \$50,611 has been paid out to assist 18 of the 38 burned Negro churches in the state in the restoration of their buildings.

Eight of the churches assisted by the committee have been completed.

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Hays Receives Award
For Role in Ethics

3-3-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--Brooks Hays, a former chairman of the commission, returned to Nashville to accept a plaque from the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission commending Hays' contributions "in the interest of world peace, racial justice, and Christian citizenship."

The award was presented by Foy Valentine, Nashville, executive secretary of the commission.

Hays, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, is now Arthur Vanderbilt professor of government at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. He teaches both there and at the Rutgers law school in Newark, N. J.

Hays said he spends about four days a week in New Jersey, the rest in Washington, where he remains a White House consultant.

At the law school, Hays said he is teaching a course in the lawyer's role in legislation. He said his professorship provides opportunities for reading and writing, and for working with young people.

The award to Hays came during the Christian Life Commission's annual meeting in Nashville.

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A former Arkansas congressman defeated because he tried to conciliate the Little Rock integration crisis, Hays said it took the court "to correct a social sin."

He continued, "I would no more blame the Negro for taking his case (on racial discrimination) to Washington for justice than I would condemn Paul (the apostle) for saying, 'I appeal to Rome,' when provincial justice failed."

Hays, a layman who was elected SBC president in 1957 and reelected the following year, said Southern Baptists "have been frustrated by our provincial thinking. Now we are national in our point of view."

The award was described by the commission as its first "distinguished service award for leadership in Christian social ethics."

The text of the plaque:

"Distinguished service award for leadership in Christian social ethics--presented by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to Brooks Hays--March 1, 1965--in recognition of unique and outstanding contributions to Southern Baptists, the nation, and mankind in the interest of world peace, racial justice, and Christian citizenship."

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Briggs Fills Spring
Vacancy At Vanderbilt

3-3-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--Robert C. Briggs has been appointed visiting professor of New Testament for the spring semester at the divinity school of Vanderbilt University here.

At Vanderbilt, he fills the vacancy created by the death of Professor W. Kendrick Grobel on Feb. 2. Briggs was employed a week later.

Briggs resigned Jan. 2 as professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., as reported earlier through Baptist Press.

No arrangement has been made for the visiting professorship to extend beyond the current semester at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

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Baylor Given \$300,000
For Library Memorial

3-3-65

WACO, Tex. (BP)--A Texas woman who indicated she had long wanted to do something of a permanent nature for Baylor University has given the Baptist school here \$300,000 to apply on a proposed library.

Mrs. B. A. Skipper, of Longview, Tex., made the gift as a memorial to her late husband, B. A. Skipper, and son, Barney A. Skipper Jr.

The \$300,000 will establish a memorial room in the new \$2.8 million library expected to be completed by January, 1968.

The Skippers are descendants of pioneer Texas families and Mrs. Skipper indicated she had long wanted to do something for Baylor, a pioneer Texas institution which was established in 1845.

Mrs. Skipper's husband died in 1956. Her son was killed in a 1962 plane crash.

The elder Skipper was an oilman and for many years was active in the First Baptist Church and community affairs in Longview.

Barney Skipper was one of the nation's best known judges of horses who owned and exhibited two world champion horses as well as Hereford cattle and champion fox hounds.

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Editors:

Please delete the last paragraph in story (contained in Executive Committee group of copy) entitled "Move Of '68 Convention/To New Site Proposed." The paragraph to be stricken begins "The SBC Executive Committee, which handles Convention arrangements. . ." and ends with the words ". . . Committee on Time, Place and Preacher." The balance of the story stands correct.

Baptist Press, Nashville

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First Utah-Idaho
Funds Reach SBC

3-3-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The first funds from the new Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention were included in the February financial statement issued here by the treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new Utah-Idaho state convention sent in \$856 in Cooperative Program gifts which became a part of the monthly total of \$1,693,153. The Utah-Idaho group also sent \$2,183 in designations, principally from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which went into the total of \$5,325,860 from all states.

The \$1,693,153 receipts from state conventions in February toward the SBC Cooperative Program budget brought the year to date to \$3,727,252. This is 3.63 per cent above the two-month, 1964 total of \$3,596,533.

Designations showed a much greater increase over the year before. For January and February, they have now amounted to \$8,431,187, an increase of 8.53 per cent over the January-February, 1964 sum of \$7,768,834. Most of the designations were through the special foreign missions offering.

The Cooperative Program month's total of \$1,693,153 compares with \$2,034,099 during January, 1965 and \$1,768,375 during February, 1964.

The February designations of \$5,325,860 are compared with \$3,105,328 during January this year and with \$5,242,127 in February a year ago.

The totals do not reflect money through the Cooperative Program or designations kept by churches for use locally or for statewide Baptist work. They represent money forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for work nationally and worldwide.

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Morgan Patterson Gets
\$4000 Grant For Study

LOUISVILLE (BP)--W. Morgan Patterson, associate professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been awarded a \$4,000 grant from the American Association of Theological Schools to study at Oxford University in England.

Patterson's research project will be a study of Baptist beginnings in England and the relation of Baptists there to the Anabaptist movement in Europe. In addition to Oxford, he will study at the British Museum in London and at research points in Switzerland and Holland.

This will be Patterson's first sabbatical leave since joining the Southern Seminary faculty in 1959. Prior to that time, he served for three years as assistant professor of church history at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also had received the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees.

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(picture goes with feature sent Feb. 27, Epic Burney Decade...New Orleans)

DECISIVE DECADE--A decisive decade climaxed at winter commencement for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary when Robert S. Burney, left, received the doctor of theology degree. Mrs. Burney, right, had received the doctor of religious education degree in 1962. The couple met at the seminary, married, became parents of two children and got doctor's degrees each during the 10-year span in New Orleans. (BP) Photo