

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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March 19, 1965

Texas Christian Life
Group urges Franchise

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, meeting in a called session here, adopted a statement urging men everywhere to guarantee all Americans the right to vote, and deploring the use of "the machinery of the law to rob men of their basic rights."

Although the statement referred specifically to no particular situation or development, the statement was clearly prompted by the racial crisis in Alabama.

The statement was approved by the 12-member commission just prior to a state-wide Christian Life Workshop on Christianity and Political Action, but no action was taken by the larger workshop--only by the commission.

The commission called upon Christians, especially Texas Baptists, to "pray for and work for the day which will see the establishment of peace with justice in every community in our land."

Complete statement adopted by the commission read:

Realizing the tremendous responsibility which rests upon us as Baptists who make up a major segment of our American culture of the south, we come in repentance and sorrow to see the violence which has once again erupted in our nation over problems of racial discrimination.

We rejoice in those Christians who are playing heroic roles in seeking to establish justice with love in our nation. We express our sympathy with the victims of violence and their families. We deplore the use of the machinery of law to rob men of basic rights.

We call upon men of good will to assert courageously and creatively our determination to secure the basic rights of all Americans to the ballot and to peaceful assembly. This is a day which demands that all persons concerned demonstrate responsible citizenship. We call upon Christians, and especially Texas Baptists, to pray for and work for the day which will see the establishment of peace with justice in every community in our land.

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Southern Asks Charter
Change Be Approved

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here have voted to recommend approval of "major changes" in the seminary's charter by the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in Dallas in June.

Charter changes proposed would:

1. Provide for the SBC to select one person for each trustee vacancy rather than "two or more," as has been the pattern for the past century.

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2. Set up five "at large" trustees so that state conventions not otherwise qualified for representation could have members on the trustees. Presently, all "at large" trustees are from the Louisville area.

3. Change the basis of state representation on the trustees from financial contributions to church membership totals, following the pattern of the SBC boards.

4. Provide for the financial board of the seminary trustees to consist of nine laymen who are members of Baptist churches in Jefferson County, of which Louisville is county seat.

For a number of years, trustees commented, they have sought a way to change the long-standing requirement that the SBC selects two or more persons for each vacancy. From this multiple nomination, the trustees each year pick one person for each vacancy. This is the only SBC agency so affected.

The requirement for this multiple nomination was written into the charter in 1858 because it was the only arrangement acceptable to the Southern Baptist Convention at that time, the trustees said.

After the SBC has selected only one trustee for each vacancy, this action will be confirmed by the seminary trustees to satisfy a legal technicality of the original charter.

The at-large trustee recommendation, if adopted, could provide a means for certain states to have representatives presently not permitted by the charter. This would affect new pioneer area state conventions of Southern Baptists such as Ohio and Indiana, for instance, which border Kentucky and where students at the seminary often have pastorates.

If the SBC committee on boards so desired, it could nominate Ohioans and Hoosiers to fill some of the at-large trustee memberships. It would not be obligated, however to nominate persons from these states.

It is expected that if the new plan wins SBC approval, the number of members of Southern Seminary trustees will probably increase slightly. There are now 56 trustees.

Whether the charter change would cause some state presently represented to lose its representation is uncertain. However, the at-large membership on the trustees could make up for any state's loss of representation by the change from financial contributions to church membership totals.

The Southern trustee recommendation states that the terms of present trustees will not be affected, but will continue till their normal expiration date, regardless of the change's effect.

In other action, trustees elected to the faculty a former teacher in the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary. He is W. Bryant Hicks, a former SBC foreign missionary, elected associate professor of Christian missions and world religions.

James Good, Roanoke, Va., graduate student in church music, was elected assistant professor of church music. Lucien E. Coleman Jr., son of Lucien Sr., an officer of the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, was elected instructor in religious education.

Promotions went to Walter Delamarter, from assistant to associate professor in the school of religious education; Jerry Vardaman, from assistant to associate professor of Biblical archaeology, and Wayne E. Ward, from associate professor to professor of Christian theology.

Sabbatical study leaves were okayed for Marvin Tate, Vardaman, John W. Carlton, Ernest J. Loessner, Delamarter, Harold S. Songer and E. Glenn Hinson.

Songer, assistant professor of New Testament interpretation, and Hinson, assistant professor of church history, received faculty tenure.

R. Inman Johnson was named professor of speech emeritus. He will retire July 31 after 45 years of teaching at Southern Seminary.

J. R. White, pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., was elected chairman of the trustees.

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Evangelists Announce
Dallas Conference

By The Baptist Press

The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will meet in Dallas on June 2, during an afternoon recess of the 1965 Southern Baptist Convention.

Meeting place is Market Hall in the Merchandise Mart, where earlier the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference will have met. Time of the Wednesday afternoon meeting is 2 to 5:30.

There will be seven speakers on the program--Jess Moody, West Palm Beach, Fla., president of the Pastor's Conference this year; John Bisagno, Tulsa; Melvin Wise, Atlanta; Robert G. Lee, Memphis; Hyman Appleman, Kansas City, Mo.; Porter Barrington, Sherman Oakes, Calif., and E. J. Daniels, Orlando, Fla.

Music during the conference will include appearances by Mrs. Martha Branham of Dallas, Ed and Bette Stalnecker, Lowell Leistner and Perry Ellis. President of the evangelists' conference is Don L. Womack, Memphis. (BP)

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J. M. Price Sr. Due
California Honor

3-19-65

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--The degree of Doctor of Literature will be conferred on John Milburn Price Sr. of Fort Worth, by California Baptist College here at its 12th annual commencement, May 24.

Price formerly directed the school of Religious Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, which he established at the request of the seminary in 1915.

It was the second school of its kind in America, and the first among Southern Baptists.

He helped to organize the American Association of Religious Education and served as its president for two years.

Prior to his retirement in 1956, Price had been professor of psychology, counseling, and history and principles of religious education.

Since his retirement he has taught at denominational assemblies, and has made two trips around the world teaching and holding conferences on Baptist work. He also served as guest professor at Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist), Abilene, Tex.

He is the author of some six books, and has edited six others, with a combined circulation of over 371,000.

California Baptist College is operated by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

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Midwestern To Start
Religious Ed Master's

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Approval of contracts for the construction of seven housing units for married students and announcement of a new degree program this fall were among highlights of the annual meeting trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The letting of contracts in the construction program involves 48 apartments in the housing units, which will be on the campus. They will include one, two and three-bedroom accommodations.

The contract calls for them to be ready for occupancy with the opening of the fall semester this year.

Also this fall, the seminary will begin matriculating students for the degree of Master of Religious Education to fill a need for specialized training in this field, the board said.

President Millard J. Berquist also reported to the trustees that three professors--William H. Morton, V. Lavell Seats and Pierce Matheny are on sabbatical leaves.

Morton is at Oxford and will go to Dibon, Jordan for an archaeological project; Seats is teaching in Southern Baptist Seminaries in the Orient, and Matheny is at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The awarding of fellowships by the American Association of Theological schools to professors, J. Morris Ashcraft and G. Hugh Wamble for sabbatical studies next year was also mentioned.

Trustees also elected a new slate of officers headed by Robert Jackson, Dalton, Ga., as president.

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2 'OBU' Teams Score
High in Cage Tourney

3-19-65

By Don Sorensen

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Teams from Southern Baptist colleges finished second and third in the 1965 National Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletics (NAIA) Basketball Tournament here.

The tournament brings together 32 of the best small college teams in the nation each year.

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, (OBU) finished second by losing in the championship game to Central State Wilberforce, Ohio, 85 to 51.

The previous day, the Oklahomans had downed 66-53 Ouachita Baptist University, (OBU) Arkadelphia, Ark., in the first battle of the two "OBU" teams since Ouachita changed its name from college to university.

Ouachita, considered the "Cinderella" team of the tournament, went on to win the consolation game against Fairmont State of Fairmont, W. Va., by 78 to 71. This earned the Arkansans third place.

Ouachita was not seeded; Oklahoma Baptist University was seeded 15th, and the championship Central State of Ohio five was top seeded in the week-long tournament. Central State went through its 29-game cage season undefeated.

Ouachita was awarded the James A. Naismith--Emil S. Liston award for sportsmanship for its play during the basketball tournament.

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This was the first time in four appearances in the annual tournament here that Ouachita has survived the first round of play. Oklahoma Baptist University's best record in three previous tries was to advance to the second round of play.

The Bisons from Shawnee, in edging to the championship game, overcame a seven-point deficit with one minute, 19 seconds to go, and downed Linfield College, an American Baptist Convention school in Linfield, Ore., 87 to 84.

In the second round, Southwestern Louisiana University of Lafayette was victim of the Oklahomans, 95 to 82.

Playing a ball-control game in the closing minutes, the Oklahoma five outlasted Winston-Salem, N. C., in the third round game, 71 to 62.

The Tigers from Arkansas started out their tournament play with an 83 to 76 victory over Lincoln University. The Ouachita team followed up with a 77 to 61 win over Lewis College of Lockport, Ill.

The third-round victory by Ouachita over Southern University of Baton Rouge, La., was considered a major upset. Two free throws by Ouachita's David Kossover with three seconds to go gave them a 65 to 64 verdict over the third-seeded Louisiana team.

These victories by the two "OBU" teams brought them into a collision with each other in the semifinals.

Kossover won the Charles Stevenson award for player hustle, and earned a spot on the all-tournament first team.

Oklahoma Baptist University's Albert Tucker scored 125 points in the five games and was the leading scorer for all teams in the 1965 tourney. He joined Kossover on the all-tournament first team.

A severe ankle injury to Leon Clements of Ouachita in the third round win hampered his activity against Oklahoma Baptist University and Fairmont State. Despite this, Clements wound up as second highest scoring player in the tournament.

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EDITORS:

The following material may be inserted in the earlier Baptist Press story, "Selma Activity Draws/Variety of Reaction." The information contained below has just come to the attention of Baptist Press and the story had already been filed when this was received.

(Insert Material)

The student body at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., also sent telegrams as a result of developments in Selma, Ala.

A wire to George C. Wallace, Alabama governor, said "We believe that sincere individuals ought to be able to protest the injustices they believe existing. We feel that police power should protect his right of protest rather than deny it."

The second telegram, directed to demonstration leader and Baptist Negro Minister Martin Luther King Jr., stated, "We deplore the use of physical violence against those individuals protesting what they believe to be existing injustices. We encourage you in this struggle for civil rights and pray that from it will come equal justice for all men."

(End Insertable Material)

Baptist Press

Foundation Reports
\$7,795,000 In Trust

NASHVILLE (BP)--A \$741,000 gain in 1964 in trust funds held by the Southern Baptist Foundation was reported here at the Southern Baptist Convention agency's annual meeting.

At the close of 1964 business, trust funds totaled \$7,795,000, according to J. W. Storer, Nashville, foundation executive secretary.

A rate of return of 5.09 per cent was reported last year in the general fund. At the same time, the rate of return on the annuity fund was 6.09 per cent. The general fund amounted to \$5- $\frac{1}{2}$ million, the annuity fund to \$332,741.

Storer said the foundation holds \$1,313,000 for other Southern Baptist Convention agencies. It acts as custodian for these funds. It also has \$750,000 in other types of funds.

Investing money for an income is one of the services the foundation provides other convention agencies. The results of this investment for other agencies was described at a budget hearing in Nashville a few weeks prior to the foundation's annual meeting.

On May 1, 1962 the Southern Baptist hospitals agency began investing its building fund by sending \$50,000 quarterly until it totaled \$200,000. These funds were returned at the rate of \$25,000 monthly beginning June 30, 1963. Interest and profit for Southern Baptist hospitals amounted to over \$31,000 during the period of investment.

"During 1964, without any promotion, annuity certificates were issued in excess of \$47,000, including funds from four new clients and increased amounts by other annuitants already being served," Storer reported to the foundation.

Requests received from three estates during 1964 came to a total of about \$150,000. They will benefit Christian education at Baptist colleges and seminaries, and home and foreign missions.

During 1963, the foundation also distributed \$317,000 to Southern Baptist causes from income off investments, Storer continued.

Reelected to his 10th term as president of the Southern Baptist Foundation was Stirton Oman, Nashville road contractor. New in their offices for a full term are L. B. Stevens, Nashville, vice-president, and B. W. Potts, Nashville, recording secretary.

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Filmstrip Aids Baptist
Youth in Witnessing

3-19-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced release of a filmstrip designed to aid youth in witnessing concerning their Christian faith.

"If You Love Me" is a 61-frame, color production on 35mm film, released through Baptist Book Stores.

The filmstrip was produced by the Department of Promotion for the Evangelism Division of the agency.

Jack Stanton, associate director of evangelism, said, "Purpose of the filmstrip is to present to the churches, youth groups, and individuals a proven method of challenging and guiding youth in effectively witnessing concerning their faith in Jesus Christ."

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He said the production was planned so that it may be used with youth or with their leadership.

"It is hoped the filmstrip will play an important part in involving youth in the great thrust of personal witnessing planned by the denomination for the fall of 1965 and the first half of 1966."

The filmstrip depicts the experiences of teen-agers in one church where a planned program of youth witnessing is begun. Competent class training is provided, and with adult guidance and cooperation, the youth and the church experience results in personal witnessing.

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Former SBC Official Ill

3-19-65

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--John R. Jester, former Southern Baptist Convention vice president and 89-year-old retired pastor, evangelist and college president, has been hospitalized "in serious condition" at Baptist hospital here. An attending physician described his condition as "very grave." He had recently celebrated his 70th anniversary in the ministry.

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Alabama Baptists Set
Missions Giving Record

3-19-65

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Alabama Baptists are giving to world missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program at a pace never before recorded in the state's history, according to the state Baptist executive secretary.

George Bagley, top official of the Alabama Baptist State Convention Executive Board, said that during the first four months of the fiscal year, Cooperative Program gifts have increased by more than \$112,000 over 1964 contributions.

Baptists in Alabama have given \$1,360,005 since Nov. 1, 1964, Bagley reported.

Bagley stated, "We rejoice in the continuing increase in gifts by our churches for all the mission causes of which we are a part as supported by the Cooperative Program."

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College Business Men
Elect New Officers

3-19-65

DALLAS (BP)--The Conference of Southern Baptist College Business Officers meeting here elected Troy Womack, vice president for financial affairs at Houston Baptist College, as president.

The organization, meeting at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board Building here, is composed of 65 members representing Baptist colleges in all states. The meeting here was the third annual session.

Elected vice president of the group was Graves Edmundson, comptroller at Stetson College, DeLand, Fla.

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Texas Workshop Urges
Baptist Political Action

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--A Texas Baptist workshop on Christianity and Political Action ended here with a plea for Baptists to be more active in politics by supporting, as well as opposing, political issues.

Texas Governor John Connally told the state Baptist Christian Life Workshop here that it has never before been more important for church organizations to take a positive stand in political affairs, not just express opposition.

He outlined specific issues facing the state which he felt deserved the support of Christian leaders, and called on Baptists to take a more active part in state government.

Earlier the secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission which sponsored the meeting said that Baptists have largely defaulted in their political responsibility because of political indifference and naivete.

Jimmy R. Allen of Dallas told the workshop that Southern Baptists have been notoriously active as one-issue voters, standing firmly against drinking, and for little else.

In another major speech, the former director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas charged that Southern Baptists have utterly failed the racial crisis facing the nation.

Lloyd Wright, 32-year-old public relations man who is now one of the top officials with the U. S. Information Agency, told the workshop: "As a denomination, we have long ago lost the opportunity to be a part of the solution to the civil rights problem."

Wright said that the convention, when faced with a problem, organizes a commission, a board, an agency, an institution or a committee to meet the issue, and too often Baptists feel they have fulfilled their obligation by forming an organization.

"A gift to the Cooperative Program buys a lot of conscience," he said. "So does support of our Christian Life Commission."

He added that too many pastors and convention officers have replied when questioned about lack of participation in deep moral crisis, "I cannot speak for our denomination (or church). I can only speak for myself."

Wright urged individual Baptists to speak out with candor and clarity on race relations and other major moral issues. "Don't mince words for fear of disrupting the organization," he said.

The three-day workshop was held just across the street from the state Capitol at the First Baptist Church of Austin. About 400 Baptists attending took a first-hand look at the inner workings of state government, heard tips from government leaders on how to be a greater influence in government affairs, and discussed major issues facing the state.

Briefings on the House of Representatives, Senate and state judicial system were brought by a Senator, a Representative and a Justice of the state Supreme Court, and suggestions on Baptist participation and influence in government were delivered by several legislators and political science experts.

A series of group discussion sessions delved into problems and legislative proposals on literacy, mental health, capital punishment, higher education, law enforcement, crime and juvenile delinquency, human welfare programs, alcoholic beverage control, gambling and race relations.

Two major issues facing the state--liquor by the drink and legalized horse race gambling--were expected to be the major discussion questions, but human rights and race relations topic loomed as the major issue of the gathering.

A group discussion session dismissed to attend a hearing on a Senate bill which would legalize sale of liquor at restaurants in miniature, two-ounce bottles. The Senate committee voted overwhelmingly to kill the bill.

Over and over, legislators urged Baptists to get to know their state government officials personally. "The most effective political influence is friend-to-friend persuasion," the legislators repeated frequently.

Several charged that Baptist church groups are woefully ignorant of legislative procedure, and an all-out educational campaign is needed to intelligently involve Baptists in the legislative process. An uninformed participation could be worse than no participation at all, they said.

During the opening session, two professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, agreed that Southern Baptists have long shunned involvement in political affairs. The speakers were William M. Pinson and William Greenlee.

Pinson said that it is immoral, false piety, and false theology for a Christian to say he will not get involved in politics "because it is dirty business."

He added that the Bible contains few, if any, specific texts that encourage Christians to participate in politics, but rather gives general doctrines and guidelines which urge Christians to give every area of life direction according to Christian principles.

Several attending the meeting called it "the most practical and profitable meeting" they had ever attended. "I've learned a lot about how to be a better Christian citizen," one pastor remarked in the hallways.

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Danforth Winner

3-19-65

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Miss Nancy Richardson, a second-year student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary from Salem, Va., has been appointed to a Danforth Seminary internship for the academic year 1965-66. This appointment, valued at \$2,100 is one of 25 scholarships awarded to outstanding theological students who are interested in the profession of campus ministry.

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Downtown Dallas Hotel
Space During SBC Gone

DALLAS (BP)---Hotel rooms in downtown Dallas during the Southern Baptist Convention, June 1-3, have all been reserved, but there is still plenty of space in outlying hotels and motels.

The SBC Housing Bureau here reported it has already made room reservations for more than 5,250 persons during the nation-wide Baptist convention.

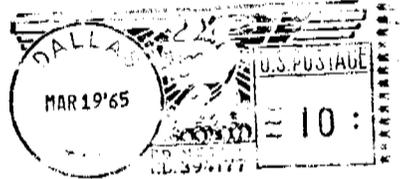
Housing bureau officials urged those who plan to attend the convention, but who have not yet written for accommodations, to do so immediately while there is still room.

A housing bureau spokesman estimated there are still about 1,000 rooms available within 10 to 15 minutes driving distance from downtown Dallas, but none within the immediate downtown area.

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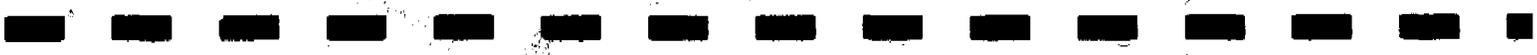
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A CO-OPERATIVE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
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CUTLINES

March 19, 1965

Baptist Press Photo

EDUCATORS CHAT--Two Southern Baptist leaders in extension education chat during the 1965 meeting of the Southern Baptist Extension Education Association in Nashville. At left is J. Aubrey Estes of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., new president of the association. With him is Cline W. Borders, Lawndale, N. C., associate in the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries. (BP) Photo