

Cutlines

April 17, 1965

Baptist Press Photo

FIRST CHURCH, DALLAS--The three buildings which make up the plant for the First Baptist Church, largest in the Southern Baptist Convention in membership, are visible in this picture. Down the street from foreground to background are the Burt Building, having educational space, parking and recreational area; the main sanctuary, and Embree Hall, housing church offices and some educational space. The main sanctuary and Embree Hall, which is site of the Religious Education Conference May 31-June 1, have spires. This is one of host churches in Dallas welcoming the 1965 session of the SBC. (BP) Photo by Jim Newton

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PASTORS MEET HERE--Market Hall is a part of the Trade Mart Center located in suburban Dallas, between the downtown area and the airport. Market Hall will be site of the meeting of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Dallas May 31-June 1. (BP) Photo

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Texas Baptists, Big
And Many, Host SBC

By Don McGregor
for the Baptist Press

The out-of-state visitor who travels through Texas to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas May 31-June 4 will have an opportunity to see for himself the vast influence of Texas Baptists and their institutions.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas, with more than 1.7 million members, is the largest of the state Baptist conventions in the nation.

It may sound like just another Texas brag on the surface, but a closer look reveals the hugeness of the state Baptist convention hosting the SBC.

All together, the 1.7 million Baptists in Texas own 26 institutions, with assets amounting to more than \$192 million. The state Baptist Cooperative Program budget is a whopping \$12 million, a million dollars a month.

The institutions include nine colleges and universities, two academies, a Bible institute, eight hospitals, four benevolent homes and systems, a weekly publication, and a foundation.

When all the various branches, divisions and separate installations of these 26 institutions are added, the total soars to 35 places of service in teaching, healing, housing, publishing, investing, or combinations of these.

The largest Baptist school, state paper, foundation, state convention office, and children's home each is located in Texas. All are either located, or have branches, in Dallas--the convention site.

In Dallas is the headquarters office for Buckner Baptist Benevolences, largest Baptist children's home in the nation.

In addition to the main Buckner home at 2200 S. Buckner Blvd., the Buckner Baptist Trew Home for Aging is also located in Dallas. Buckner is now building a maternity home and medical care facilities for the aging in Dallas.

Other Buckner units are spread all across the state, with another maternity home in San Antonio, a girls home in Lubbock, a boys ranch in Burnet, Tex., and another home for aging in Houston--all part of the huge Buckner system.

Offices of the state Baptist convention, the largest in the nation, are located in downtown Dallas at 703 N. Ervay. Housed in the Baptist Building are four commissions, five divisions, and 10 departments of the state Baptist Executive Board, with 140 employees.

Just across the street at 711 N. Akard is the Southern Baptist Annuity Board building, where offices of the Baptist Foundation of Texas are located. The foundation serves the investment needs of all the other Texas Baptist owned institutions.

Five blocks due east of the Baptist Building at 2222 San Jacinto is the Baptist Standard official publication of the state Baptist convention with more than 370,000 subscribers--the largest circulation of any state Baptist paper in the nation or any daily newspaper in the state of Texas.

Also located in Dallas at 3500 Gaston Ave. is Baylor University Medical Center, the largest Baptist hospital in Texas, and the second largest Baptist hospital in the nation. Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., is the biggest.

Adjacent to the Baylor hospital is the Baylor University College of Dentistry, and the Baylor University School of Nursing, both branches of the largest Baptist university in the nation and world.

Baylor University's main campus is in Waco, about 100 miles south of Dallas. More than 6,500 students are enrolled in one of the Baylor colleges or schools. The College of Medicine is in Houston.