

April 29, 1965

**Racial Study To Help
Churches In Transition**

ATLANTA (BP)--A national study in 21 metropolitan areas will seek new ways to help churches develop effective ministries in racially changing communities.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced the \$7,500 study would be made by G. Willis Bennett of Louisville.

Bennett is associate professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary there.

In the study, expected to be completed by November, he will seek answers to the following questions:

--What happens to Negroes and Spanish-speaking people when they converge in the inner-city of metropolitan centers?

--What happens in and to Southern Baptist churches in these areas when the people move in?

--What are Southern Baptist churches and other churches doing, or not doing, to meet the needs of these people?

--How can Southern Baptists, through churches, associations, state conventions, and the Home Mission Board, develop a constructive team approach to meet the needs of these people?

Victor Glass of Atlanta, secretary of the department of work with National (Negro) Baptists for the mission agency, said the study was a cooperative one among his, the language missions and the metropolitan missions departments.

"We undertook the study when churches came to us for help. Many faced moving, they wanted advice on how to proceed with an effective ministry," he said.

"The study also marks a concern at the mission agency to develop research in such areas before situations deteriorate further," Glass added.

Cities in which the study will be made are Montgomery, Ala.; Tucson; Los Angeles; Washington; Miami; Atlanta; East St. Louis; Albuquerque, N. M.; Winston-Salem, N. C.; Cleveland; Tulsa, Okla.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Corpus Christi and San Antonio, Tex.; Newport News, Va.; Chicago; Louisville; Detroit; Jackson, Miss.; and St. Louis.

Bennett will use questionnaires, interviews, group consultation and statistical research in the study.

Results of the study will be published in Home Missions magazine, official monthly publication of the Home Mission Board, in January 1966.

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Baptists Aid Graham
Montgomery Crusade

4-29-65

MONTGOMERY (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham, meeting here at the Alabama Baptist state office building with a group of white and Negro pastors and lay leaders to plan a major crusade in Alabama's capital city in June, said, "I'm coming to preach the gospel and win people for Christ."

Graham explained he was planning the crusade at the invitation of local people. He said they had picked this as the time for him to come. When asked how Negroes and whites can relieve their present day tensions, he replied, "By the love of God--love thy neighbor. It will have to come from the heart on a personal level."

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The Montgomery crusade will begin June 13 or 14, depending on the setting of final plans for Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, which will hold approximately 23,000 people.

J. R. White, pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, was named permanent chairman of the committee to carry out plans for the crusade.

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Texas Students Praise
Baptist Schools On Race.

4-29-65

WACO, Tex. (BP)--A resolution commending Texas Baptist colleges and universities for setting integration policies was adopted by 750 Baptist students from 61 Texas colleges and universities attending a Baptist Student Union leadership training conference.

Meeting at a Baptist encampment 25 miles northwest of Waco, the students also resolved "to strive specifically to involve all students on our campuses, regardless of race or national extraction, at every level in the total Baptist Student Union program.

"Be it further resolved," the statement continued, "that we, as students, accept our own personal responsibility to be Christian toward all men in all our relationships."

During a similar Baptist student leadership training conference here four years ago, a resolution was adopted urging all Texas Baptist colleges to integrate.

Since the 1961 resolution was passed, all Baptist schools in Texas have established admission policies with no racial restrictions.

This year has been a year of special emphasis on race relations in Texas Baptist Student Union organizations, said John Moeser, outgoing president of the organization's executive committee.

Following the action, a Baptist Student Union director and a white and a Negro student each urged the 750 campus Baptist leaders to put the resolution into action in their daily relationships with students of all races on their campuses.

Leroy Jefferson, a Negro student from Wharton County Junior College, Wharton, Tex., spoke in favor of the resolution, urging white and Negro students to love each other as Christians and to accept each other as friends.

Jefferson had earlier been elected to the state Baptist Student Union executive committee. He is the first Negro ever elected to the 12-member state committee.

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SBC Business Items
At Dallas Reviewed

4-29-65

By the Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention messengers, when they meet June 1-4 in Dallas Memorial Auditorium, will probably display more interest in three scheduled items of business than in others on the agenda during the four-day span.

These three scheduled matters of business are (1) whether to be part of the proposed North American Baptist Fellowship or Committee, (2) whether to limit the Convention presidency to a single, one-year term, and (3) whether to approve a record Cooperative Program budget to support SBC agencies in 1966.

Another scheduled matter is a vote on a revised messenger registration procedure which provides for a credentials committee to be named to assist the registration secretary.

Also to be voted on are program descriptions of work carried on by two SBC agencies, the Sunday School Board and the Brotherhood Commission. Messengers will vote not only on the 1970 Convention meeting date and site, but will also vote on transferring the 1968 meeting to another city.

In making its decisions where secret ballots are used, the more than 13,000 messengers expected will have computer cards, with coded letters and numbers, on which to punch out their choices--instead of ballots or slips of paper as before.

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The cards, given to messengers as they register, have perforated pieces which the voter can punch out with a hairpin, pencil point or ball point pen. Where a committee of tellers has taken several hours to count up manually a convention vote, the mechanical equipment is expected to whiz through the cards and furnish results in a matter of minutes.

Unscheduled items of business normally find their way into the Convention's actions each year. This is possible because any messenger can bring whatever matter he wishes to the attention of his fellow messengers. Miscellaneous business periods are scattered throughout the four-day session to make this widespread participation possible.

In past years, this has sometimes brought resolutions on church-state affairs, the race issue, and doctrinal questions. None of these items, however, is on the scheduled list of business actions for the 1965 Convention in Dallas.

Appearing on the program again this year is a period called "What's Your Question?" It is a time when messengers may ask questions of their denominational leaders about the way the SBC does its work. This was first tried at the 1964 Convention in Atlantic City, N. J.

Thirty minutes is provided for this "dialogue between the messengers and the various executive heads" of Convention agencies. The executives will serve as a panel and will sit on the platform during this half-hour.

The Sunday School Board also plans to have a question and answer period about its own work during its report time at the Convention.

A Convention committee, after a year's study, will recommend to messengers that they support SBC participation in a North American Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. This question, also before the 1964 Convention, was referred for the committee's study.

The term "fellowship" was used, instead of "committee," in the proposal last year. "This is simply a change in terminology . . . to more clearly define the nature" of the organization, SBC President Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., explained in an advance release of the committee's recommendation.

Texas Baptist Editor E. S. James of Dallas proposed last year the Convention presidency be limited to a single, one-year term. The president is now elected for a one-year term but may be reelected once, making it possible for him to be in office two consecutive years.

Opinion in the Baptist state papers during the year has been divided, some supporting the one-year limit, others preferring for the present two-year restriction to remain in effect. James has said he will call for the required second vote on his constitutional change at the Dallas Convention.

The \$21.8 million Cooperative Program budget for 1966, which sets a record, has already been approved by the Executive Committee of the SBC. It must be approved by messengers as well. It provides \$19,016,000 for SBC agency operations and \$2,244,750 for capital needs. The remaining \$539,250 is the estimated "advance"--funds received late in the year after meeting operating and capital needs.

Advance funds are divided between foreign and home missions exclusively.

The Convention votes on its meeting places and times five years ahead, so a vote on the 1970 Convention city and date is normal this year. Two years ago, the Convention voted for the 1968 Convention to meet in Jacksonville, Fla.

Jacksonville Baptists have since said they cannot accommodate the 1968 Convention. The SBC Executive Committee recommends it be switched to Miami Beach, Fla. In a pre-convention meeting in Dallas the Executive Committee will decide what city it will propose for 1970.

The registration secretary would have the assistance of the proposed credentials committee when someone without credentials asked to register as a messenger, or when there was a question of how many messengers a church was entitled to register at the Convention.

Other recommendations coming as a result of the study by the committee on registration procedures include (1) a rephrased statement in the SBC constitution to make clearer the method for churches to use in electing messengers, (2) allowing for earlier registration of messengers in the Convention city, and (3) microfilming of messenger registration cards for historical and legal reasons.

The work of the credentials committee would first be seen at the 1966 Convention in Detroit, if the report is adopted.

The SBC Stewardship Commission will remind messengers that 1965 marks the 40th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, the unified budget plan which supports both state Baptist and Southern Baptist national and worldwide missionary work.

A Wednesday afternoon off from Convention business will enable messengers to attend seminary alumni luncheons and the dedication of a new Baptist Radio and Television Center in nearby Fort Worth. It will house the SBC Radio and Television Commission's office and broadcasting facilities. (BP)

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K. Owen White Accepts
California Missions Post

4-29-65

LOS ANGELES (BP)--K. Owen White, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Houston and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named metropolitan missions coordinator for the Los Angeles area. He will also be associate to the missions divisions director for the state convention.

Elected by the executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, White will serve at least five associations encompassing about six million people. He will begin his new work July 1, sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the California convention. His election is subject to approval in the near future by the Home Mission Board.

The silver-haired preacher, who will be 63 this summer, resigned as pastor of the 3600-member Houston church on April 25, about a month before his 12th anniversary there.

"For some time we have felt that it would be wise to find relief from the demanding pressures of this great city church," White said.

"Lest anyone should think we are making this move for financial gain, let me tell you that this will cut our income in half."

White said he had planned for some time to leave the pastorate to enter the type of missions work he will perform in California. His resignation was dated March 11, but he had not wanted to announce it until the California board elected him.

The Houston church's voting 206 to 182 not to accept Negro members was not a factor in his decision, he said. He said at a press conference the day before resigning that he was disappointed in the negative vote and felt it did not "reflect the true spirit of the church. It expresses the politicking of a few who were negative on the question," he said. The vote on accepting Negro members was taken a few days before White's public announcement of his resignation.

The former SBC president said he had told his congregation about two years ago that "they don't need to anticipate I will be here a long time."

A staunch theological conservative, White served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963-64. He was a key figure in efforts to strike what he called "theological liberalism" from Baptist seminaries and agencies.

When he was elected to the SBC presidency, White was also president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Manhattan SBC Church
Calls Second Pastor

4-29-65

NEW YORK CITY (BP)--W. Maurice Fain has accepted the call of Manhattan Baptist Church here to become its pastor. He comes to New York City from New Orleans where he served Napoleon Avenue Baptist Church as pastor for 2-1/2 years.

Organized seven years ago, Manhattan Baptist Church was the first Southern Baptist Convention church in the New York metropolitan area. It is located at 311 W. 57th St., in New York City.

The new pastor succeeds Paul S. James at Manhattan Baptist Church. James was its first pastor and is now director of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board work in the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

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CUTLINES

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Baptist Press Photo

JOHN H. HALDEMAN, pastor, Allapattah Baptist Church, Miami, is preacher of the Convention Sermon when the Southern Baptist Convention holds its 1965 session in Dallas Memorial Auditorium (BP) Photo