

From TEXAS REGIONAL OFFICE

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The 1965 Convention
--From 40 Inches High

DALLAS (BP)--How does the Southern Baptist Convention look from 40 inches above the floor?

"Big" is the answer of hundreds of youngsters who accompanied parents to the 1965 Convention at Dallas Memorial Auditorium.

"This building is too little for so many people," eight-year-old Bryant Helton of Christiansburg, Va., observed. "I had to sit on the steps last night."

Nursery care at First Baptist Church relieved parents of children four and younger. A receptionist at the church said about 100 children were in the nurseries during sessions.

The pint-sized population--especially those from areas in comfortable driving distance of Dallas--added to the pedestrian traffic. Occasionally their distress signals reminded adults the three-hour meetings were tiresome.

Children could be found in balcony seats, under chairs, on steps, on parents' laps, in hallways and at exhibits. But eventually all lined up at rest rooms and concession booths.

Books, crayons, games, bottles and bribes were favorite devices for inducing proper Convention decorum for little ones.

"I like to chew gum and make little balls out of the silver paper," said Lee Porter II of Houston, Tex.

One scholarly eight-year-old said his favorite Convention attraction was the Baptist Book Store exhibit. He presented a new copy of "The Wizard of Oz" saying, "I almost finished it last night."

But a first-grader, Elaine Johnson of Greenville, S. C., complained, "I don't like the meetings. Daddy won't let me bring anything to read because I made noise with my color book."

A six-year-old from Lufkin, Tex., revealed his plans for self-entertainment when he pulled out a toy brought from home--a big green whistle. But this dad, Hank Keakey, promised the whistle was for display only.

The long hours of speechmaking reminded some pre-schoolers of church. "I like the preaching and singing, but some bad people make noise clapping," said a girl with long blonde curls.

Pageantry of the Woman's Missionary Union meeting enthralled two Morse sisters of Springfield, Tenn. Nine-year-old Joy, a member of Girls' Auxiliary, liked the revolving stages which revealed 10 of her contemporaries in long white dresses. Melody, 6, was thrilled by the flag procession in the roll call of nations.

Many children were oldtimers at Conventions. Four-year-old Tricia Roach of Houston, Tex., went to her first Baptist meeting at age two months. According to mommie, Mrs. James Ray Roach, Tricia has attended every meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in her lifetime. "She leaves the sessions regularly for refreshments," Mrs. Roach said as Tricia bit into a big doughnut.

Lee Porter also remembered other Conventions, because they are always times of family travel. "I like our motel best--it has a swimming pool," he said.

Spaceman John Glenn offered the highlight for several boys who attended the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference with their fathers. "I went to the platform and got a good look at him," said one young man. "He was the first man in space, you know."

One mother explained her family's objectives in driving from Virginia with two young children. "We eat cereal in our motel room for breakfast and a snack at lunch so we can save money. After the Convention we are going to take the boys to California."

A pastor's wife in a chic yellow straw hat said, "My husband doesn't know it, but I like to hear what goes on at the Convention, too. So I bring the children with me."

As she talked, she gave her five-week-old baby its bottle, and her six-year-old held the diaper bag.

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Howard Name Change
Explained To Alumni

6-5-65

DALLAS (BP)--Plans for changing the name of Howard College were explained to alumni attending the school's breakfast during the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas.

Howard President Leslie S. Wright told some 150 alumni of a recent board of trustees recommendation that the Alabama Baptist Convention rename the Birmingham school Samford University.

"Howard is already a university, according to the types of courses offered. We should call it a university," said Wright. "Since a university named Howard already exists, it would be improper for us to choose that name," he continued.

The board of trustees voted to rename the 142-year-old school in honor of the Frank P. Samfords of Birmingham, Ala., giving the name Howard to the school of liberal arts.

"Mr. Samford is undoubtedly the college's greatest benefactor, being directly responsible for three major buildings on our new campus," Wright said. Samford, a Birmingham insurance executive, has served as chairman of the board of trustees for 25 years.

Within the past five years, Howard has added the Cumberland School of Law to its program. Other departments, such as teacher education, pharmacy and business administration, have courses and students which make them equivalent to schools in the academic structure of universities. Also, the college is reinstituting a master's degree program.

The breakfast was the first official gathering of alumni at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting. According to alumni director Russell Donaldson, it will become an annual affair because of the response this year.

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Christian Life
Report Approved

6-5-65

DALLAS (BP)--A strongly worded report from the Christian Life Commission, expressing hope the Convention will play a more active role in improving race relations, was adopted here by the 1965 Southern Baptist Convention.

Minutes earlier, the messengers gave their agency an indirect vote of confidence. The Christian Life Commission offers guidelines on social and moral issues. Both actions, which were approved by more than a two-thirds majority, were in complete contrast to a motion presented earlier to abolish the commission.

A move led by ministers from Alabama and Mississippi to delete the strongest section of the lengthy report on race relations lost decisively.

Last year, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlantic City adopted a soft substitute motion authored by Deep South ministers when the Christian Life Commission suggested Southern Baptists take a forthright stand on race.

A similar move lost this year on a standing vote, although the Christian Life report came this year as a report only rather than a recommendation.

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Henry L. Lyon, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., offered a motion to amend the commission's report. He would have substituted a statement saying the local church is competent to deal with any question, social or otherwise.

Franklin Owen of Lexington, Ky., presented an amendment to the amendment. It asked that Lyon's suggestion be made a part of the commission's report, added to it instead of replacing part of it.

A call for the question came from the floor, cutting off debate. The Owen amendment passed overwhelmingly. The entire report of the commission then was adopted as amended.

The Christian life report, while containing no recommendations, expressed hope more Southern Baptists would be actively involved in seeking specific cures for personal prejudice, unfair housing practices, discriminatory employment, unequal justice under the law, and denial of voting rights.

Applause broke out at two points when former commission chairman Orba Lee Malone of El Paso, Tex., read the agency's statement. Malone is an attorney.

It came when he read, "Our most thoughtful New Testament scholars have unequivocally declared that the racial pride which spawns segregation and discrimination is an offense to the Gospel, does violence to the altar of God, and is rightly understood as a sin against God and humanity."

Referring to progress made through legislation on civil rights, the report said, "Laws can open doors, but only Christ can teach us to love those who walk through those doors. We bear in mind that what the New Testament says is far more demanding than what the Civil Rights Law says, and that the requirements of the church are far more stringent than the requirements of Congress."

About 30 minutes before the report was presented, the Convention messengers suspended their rules to give special consideration to a resolution commending the Christian Life Commission.

They voted to refer a resolution presented by James B. Newton of Collinsville, Ill., to the proper committee. It was in direct contrast to a resolution presented earlier by W. M. Nevins of Lexington, Ky., who wanted the commission abolished.

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SBC To Participate
In North American Unit

6-5-65

DALLAS (BP)--A committee report suggesting Southern Baptists take part in a North American Baptist fellowship was adopted here by a 4911 to 2401 vote on a secret ballot.

Heated debate followed the presentation of the report by W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas. The 1964 Convention had voted by a narrow margin not to participate, although the issue was referred to a committee for a year's study.

In bringing the report, Criswell pointed out the North American committee or fellowship would have no authority over any Baptist church or group and would do no work for which member bodies are responsible.

"Our Baptist brethren need encouragement," Criswell said. "An extension of our soul-winning witness is needed immeasurably in the East, North and West."

A New Jersey messenger urged the Convention to turn down the proposal. He said one of the member denominations has become infamous for "theological and ecumenical harlotry."

Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary, SBC Executive Committee, said the North American committee or fellowship is not prohibited by Convention bylaws. He said the North American unit is not a Southern Baptist Convention committee but is related to the Baptist World Alliance.

The American Baptist Convention, the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, the Baptist Federation of Canada, and the National Baptist Convention of Mexico had already voted to participate. Five participating bodies were needed to bring the unit into

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existence.

The SBC action here included a suggestion the name "fellowship" be changed to "committee." Josef Nordenhaug, Washington, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said that other members will have to decide whether to accept the suggested new name.

In preConvention news articles about the issue, SBC President Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., reviewed the use of the terms "committee" and "fellowship."

He said, "To more clearly define the nature of the North American organization, we feel the term 'committee' is better than the term 'fellowship.' This is simply a change in terminology."

The purpose of the North American unit is "to continue the gains and values growing out of the Baptist Jubilee Advance and to make possible opportunities for fellowship and the sharing of mutual concerns."

The Baptist Jubilee Advance, which came to a climax in 1964, celebrated 150 years of organized Baptist work in North America, on a nationwide scale. Several Baptist groups entered it, and adopted goals for advancing various phases of their work.

Similar continental associations of Baptists exist in Europe, Asia and Africa.

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Golden Gate Alumni
Elect Henry Blackaby

6-5-65

DALLAS (BP)--Henry T. Blackaby, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, San Pablo, Calif., has been elected president of the alumni association of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Blackaby succeeds Don B. McCoy, pastor, Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Other new officers are Roy L. Cissna, Jefferson City, Mo., director of special ministries, Missouri Baptist Convention, vice-president; Arlie L. McDaniel, Escondido, Calif., pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, treasurer, and Carl M. Halvarson, Mill Valley, Calif., assistant to the president of Golden Gate Seminary, executive secretary.

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Joe H. Tuten Heads
New Orleans Alumni

6-5-65

DALLAS (BP)--Alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, in a meeting here, elected Donald B. Harbuck, pastor, First Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark., as president.

Other officers are:

Vice-president--Joe H. Tuten, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
Secretary--Mrs. Thomas Hight, wife of pastor of First Baptist Church, Gadsden, Ala.
Treasurer--John L. Gilbert, superintendent of missions, Shreveport, La.

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Big 'D' Friendly
To 1965 Convention

DALLAS (BP)--"Big 'D' can take it," said a policeman in the middle of a traffic snarl on Commerce St. in the center of the city. He was referring to the estimated 35,000 people converging on Dallas for the 1965 Southern Baptist Convention.

People in the heart of Dallas saw the mobs with amusement and amazement. "They're like most conventions--without the drunks," remarked one attendant at Dallas Memorial Auditorium to another. Interpreted, that meant people arrived at the auditorium early and stayed late.

Director of Memorial Auditorium, W. W. Vanderslice, said people were pouring into the arena at 7 a.m. Meetings went on as late as midnight.

"Keeping the building clean is our worst problem," he said of his largest convention--the SBC. "The crew doesn't have time to clean up because the people never leave."

The tons of literature and papers distributed to messengers posed the worst obstacle to cleaning. Flat papers had to be picked up from the concrete floors by hand.

Also, about 1,500 paper plates of fried chicken catered from huge trucks outside the auditorium along with other paper containers added to the cleanup problem. "I had to call for a second extra-large garbage truck today," commented Vanderslice as he pointed to mounting piles of rubbish. "We've put on all the extra help we can, and our whole crew is working overtime."

"The people are very friendly--especially those from Alabama," the director said. "I guess the seating shortage causes the most complaints." (The auditorium seated only about 9,500 and registration set a record of nearly 16,000.)

Vanderslice's crew, along with extra stage hands and technical experts, created one of the most elaborate theatrical settings in auditorium history for the Woman's Missionary Union meeting preceding the Convention sessions. The whole thing had to come down and be replaced by the Convention platform in less than four hours, during the interim between the close of one meeting and the start of the other.

To a policeman, the Convention resembled a Junior Chamber of Commerce convention because of slow traffic. Sgt. W. C. Campbell Jr. and Patrolman G. L. Prunell strode into jamming intersections at 8 a.m.

"Traffic is a lot worse, but people are cooperating. We don't give tickets to out-of-town people," the officers said.

"Things get mighty busy when these cars start in," reported the parking attendant at the auditorium. "We can't take care of this many cars. But most of the people are nice--nicer than our usual crowds."

Taxi drivers saw another side of the Convention. One driver said he enjoyed talking to the people, but he was surprised that so many went to expensive eating places.

Another driver said with disgust, "These country people think the cab driver is running up the meter because they don't know how to get around in a city."

A head waiter in one of the city's top restaurants said he noticed the Baptists when a roomfull of patrons ordered unspiked fruit punch before dinner.

Meanwhile, hundreds of messengers lunched at concession booths in the auditorium. A young counterman at one booth said, "This is my favorite convention. The people don't shove, and most of them are real nice."

Jim Strauss, assistant manager of the Adolphus Hotel, said the Convention messengers who packed his hotel for three nights were "our best crowd." "They don't cause any disturbances in the house. We don't get any complaints about the noise. And these Baptists seldom fuss about mixups."

BAPTIST FEATURES

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Board, Agency, Seminary
Located Near SBC Site

By Jim Newton
Baptist Press Texas Bureau

Three Southern Baptist agencies and institutions--a board, a commission, and a seminary---located near the site of the 1965 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas have experienced unprecedented growth and expansion since the convention last met in Texas in 1958.

When the convention meets June 1-4 at Dallas Memorial Auditorium, the beautiful building which houses the offices and ministries of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board at 511 N. Akard will be within easy walking distance of the auditorium.

Just 32 miles to the west in Fort Worth are two other convention-owned and operated installations---the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition to the Annuity Board, seminary, and Radio-TV commission, the nationwide offices of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Division of Evangelism are also located in Dallas.

But not for long. The Division of Evangelism, headed by C. E. Autrey, is moving during the month of June to Atlanta where offices of the Home Mission Board are located.

Texas cannot for long claim the Division of Evangelism as an SBC agency branch, for the move is expected to be completed by the last part of June.

Since the convention last met in Texas in 1958 for sessions in Houston, the faces of the three other SBC agencies and institutions have changed and expanded so much that convention messengers who visited them then might not recognize many of the buildings.

The new buildings, however, are only evidence of a more significant expansion---the growth of ministries and programs.

All of the three agencies and institutions have been in an unprecedented expansion of their ministries during the past seven years, which one of the agency heads called "beyond all anticipated expectations."

Annuity Board

For example, the Annuity Board has since 1958 changed its name, moved into a new 15-story building, expanded its protection program for Southern Baptist ministers, offered a new variable annuity fund to supplement the basic plan, created a new life benefits plan, offered a new health and hospitalization plan, and set up a new electronic data processing system to keep track of all the benefit plans offered to Southern Baptist ministers and church and denominational employees.

Offices of the Annuity Board are located in a beautiful building which the board occupied in March of 1959 after having offices for years in the Baptist Building owned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The Annuity Board was founded in 1918 as the Southern Baptist Relief and Annuity Board, offering a retirement plan to Baptist pastors who would set aside a small part of his annual salary for retirement, and "relief" preachers who were already retired but had little income.

Today there are less than 1,000 persons on "relief," and since the relief program has assumed a minor part of the board's vast ministry, the convention voted in 1960 to delete the words "Relief And" from the board's name, making it simply "Annuity Board."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS LIBRARY
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More than 35,000 persons employed by churches and about 125 denominational agencies and institutions are covered by the board's protection program against future financial needs because of retirement, death or disability.

Each week, about 5,400 widows receive a check from the Annuity Board to help their financial needs created by the death of their loved one, a dedicated Baptist pastor or denominational servant.

Church and denominational employees can supplement their basic protection plan with the Variable Annuity Fund, first offered in 1960, or the Life Benefit Plan which was first offered in 1964 to provide low-cost protection against death in active service, disability, or age retirement.

A new health plan is now being offered and is expected to be in force by Oct. 1, 1965, underwritten by Group Hospital Services Inc. of Dallas, with hospitalization, surgical, and major medical benefits.

With thousands of Southern Baptists paying regularly on these plans, the funds are held in trust for their future use and are put in financially sound investments to earn interest for the beneficiary. The Annuity Board is financially self-sustaining, and the only Cooperative Program support it receives is used for relief payments.

R. Alton Reed is executive secretary of the Annuity Board, and the president of the Board is Dr. Wallace Bassett, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, and a member of the board every year since the board was created in 1918.

In nearby Fort Worth, Southwestern Seminary and the SBC Radio-TV Commission have experienced similar expansion of their ministries and facilities.

Radio-TV Commission

The Radio and Television Commission, which moved to Fort Worth from Atlanta in 1955, has expanded its program to the point that it is now the largest religious broadcasting production agency in the world. It ranks third only to Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America in the number of broadcasts and hours put out annually in the free world.

Twenty-five years ago, the first "official" broadcast of the denomination, "The Baptist Hour," was begun in 1941.

Today, the Radio-TV Commission produces 22 radio programs, and one television series each week. Last year, the commission prepared and distributed 79,984 programs for broadcast.

By contrast, the commission produced only four weekly radio programs and one television series in 1958 when the Southern Baptist Convention last met in Texas. Since that time, the number of broadcast outlets, number of hours of radio and television time, and the total number of broadcasts have all nearly trebled.

It is estimated that nearly 60 million people watched or listened to radio or television programs produced by the commission last year.

An ever-increasing number of overseas stations in 40 foreign countries are carrying Baptist-produced radio and television programs in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Thai, and other languages. The commission produced 13 programs in nine different languages last year.

Because of this extremely fast expansion of the volume of programs produced to glorify the name of Christ by Southern Baptists through its Radio-TV Commission, the commission has completely outgrown its present facilities at 6248 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 2, at 2:30 when the Southern Baptist Convention will be dismissed for the afternoon, the commission will climax the years of unprecedented growth and set the stage for further expansion when it dedicated its new communications center. Although still incomplete, the building will be finished and furnished by the last of June.

The International Communications Center will contain the commission's offices studios, radio-television production areas, plus printing and warehouse facilities in the two buildings costing about \$720,000.

The new building is a dream-come-true for Commission Executive Director Paul M. Stevens, who heads operations of the vast radio-television ministries of Southern Baptists.

Southwestern Seminary

Like the Radio-TV Commission, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Fort Worth is also in the midst of a vast expansion and development program.

Seminary trustees, in a recent meeting this spring, approved a committee study which will recommend a ten-year campus development program which will be bigger even than its present development program slated to end in 1966.

The seminary held dedication ceremonies in March for a brand-new, \$1.2 million student center as a part of this development program. The beautiful, three-story colonial building will be the site of open house at the seminary during the convention on June 2.

In addition to the student center, plans call for the construction of a new children's building which will provide facilities to train church workers with children and take care of the children of seminary students; a medical and dental clinic, a physical fitness center with gymnasium, swimming pool, picnic area and ball fields; plus expansion and remodeling of resident halls and apartments.

Southwestern observed two milestones in its history this year. The School of Religious Education and the School of Church Music each observed their 50th anniversaries in 1965.

In unique tribute to its 50th year of operation, the seminary's school of music became the first and only theological seminary music school to be recognized with membership in the National Association of Schools of Music.

Southwestern is the world's largest evangelical seminary, with more than 1,964 students currently enrolled. It has the largest theological library in the nation, with more than 350,000 volumes.

More than 23,000 students from every state in the nation and scores of foreign countries have attended Southwestern. More than half of the missionaries appointed by the SBC Foreign Mission Board have attended the seminary nestled on a 70 acre campus on Seminary Hill in Fort Worth.

The graduates received their training in three distinct schools within the seminary---the schools of theology, religious education, and church music. The three schools supplement each other and students in one school are required to take courses in the others.

Since the SBC met in Texas last, Southwestern has elected a new president. Robert Naylor, who was pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, became president of the seminary on Sept. 1, 1958, just three months after the convention met in Houston.

Naylor, Stevens, and Reed would agree, as probably most other Southern Baptists might, that the years between the 1965 Dallas meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and the next convention session in Texas will probably see an even greater growth and expansion of the ministries of the three SBC agencies in Texas.