

November 22, 1948

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS NEAR END OF HONOR DEBT REPAYMENT

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Another year may see Arkansas Baptists completely redeem themselves of a \$1,250,000 indebtedness settled on a compromise basis in the depression year 1937.

Dr. B. L. Bridges, state executive secretary, told the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at its annual meeting here that only \$185,000 remains to be repaid.

The indebtedness had been legally settled during the depression on a compromise basis of one-third repayment, meaning that note and bond holders lost about \$700,000. Baptist consciences prompted the Convention in 1943, however, to reassume this unpaid balance as a "moral obligation." Payments are being made through a state convention budget item and designated contributions.

A record budget of \$597,000 was adopted by the Convention for its 1949 program, divided 60 per cent for state causes and 40 per cent for Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. This 60-40 arrangement is getting nearer the 50-50 ideal, Dr. Bridges said, because full receipts are now divided without any preferred items being taken out before the division.

An allocation of \$20,000 to Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge added a third educational institution to the state Cooperative Program budget, though the college operates as an independent Baptist institution with an independent Board of Trustees.

It was the Centennial Celebration session for the denomination. Dr. E. C. Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Blytheville, was re-elected president.

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CALIFORNIA ADOPTS \$125,000 BUDGET

SACRAMENTO, Calif.--(BP)--A 1949 budget of \$125,000 was adopted by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. After deduction of operating funds for the state secretary's office and the state paper, division will be made 30 per cent to Golden Gate Seminary, 45 per cent to state missions, and 25 per cent to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

Dr. S. G. Posey of Berkeley was elected president.

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ALABAMA BAPTISTS GIVEN
TWO BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--The Alabama Baptist Convention, meeting in its annual session here, accepted as a gift two hospitals previously operated by Birmingham Baptist Association.

A non-profit corporation will be set up for management of the hospitals. They have a property valuation of about \$1,750,000, and \$250,000 in cash. Plans have been made to increase the 200 bed capacity to 300 for the combined institutions.

Dr. A. H. Reid, state secretary, reported that gifts reaching the state office during the past year included \$800,028.84 for the Cooperative Program and \$500,398.19 for designated objects. Miscellaneous gifts boosted the total to \$1,393,572.92. A Cooperative Program goal of \$900,000 was set for 1949.

Gifts of \$200,000 from J. A. Fields of Montgomery and \$50,000 from Columbus Roberts of Columbus, Ga., were announced by the Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

Dr. John Slaughter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Birmingham, was re-elected president of the Convention.

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GEORGIA GOES 50-50

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention will divide its Cooperative Program receipts with the Southern Baptist Convention next year on a 50-50 basis.

The convention, in its 127th annual session, adopted a budget of \$1,022,400 for 1949 and increased its distribution from the old basis of 45 per cent to world-wide causes. The 1949 budget represents an increase of about \$135,000.

Dr. Spright Dowell, president of Mercer University for the past 21 years, was elected convention president to succeed Columbus Roberts, layman of Columbus.

The convention amended its constitution to enlarge the executive committee to approximately 115 members, providing one from each district association and 20 from the state-at-large.

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D. C. BAPTISTS BAPTIZED
1,242 LAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(BP)--District of Columbia Baptists -- 35 churches with a membership of 27,971 -- have adopted a 1949 budget of \$265,000. With the exception of \$41,500 to be applied to debt reduction, the remainder of the budget will be divided 50-50, half being retained for Baptist work in the District and the remainder being divided equally between Northern and Southern Baptist Conventions.

Dr. Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, was re-elected president.

Dr. M. Chandler Stith, executive secretary, reported that the 35 churches received into their membership during the year 2,797 new members, 1,242 coming by baptism. A grand total of \$1,100,000 was given for all purposes during the year, of which 80 per cent was used in the local churches.

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NORTH CAROLINA GOES 50-50

CHARLOTTE, N. C.--(BP)--North Carolina Baptists, holding their 118th annual session, heard reports that total gifts to the state's churches during the past year were approximately \$15,000,000. Of this, \$12,000,000 went for expenses of the local churches, and \$3,000,000 for missions and benevolences including state and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Progress was reported in plans for moving Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem. The over-all cost of this move is estimated at \$18,000,000, of which several million has already been raised or is in sight.

Dr. F. Orion Mixon, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raleigh, was elected new president of the Convention, succeeding Rev. John W. Suttle of Shelby.

The state divides Cooperative Program receipts 50-50 between state and Southern Baptist Convention objects.

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DR. SOLOMON TO RETIRE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(BP)--Dr. Edward D. Solomon, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness for 17 years, has announced plans to retire next May 31.

Announcement of the planned retirement was made in an issue of The Witness released during the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist Convention.

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\$5,000 TO SPEND, BUT
SHE GAVE IT AWAY

BARTLESVILLE, Okla.--(BP)--What does a woman do when suddenly \$5,000 is dumped in her lap?

Many a woman -- or man -- could spend it on a new home, or new clothes, or maybe an automobile. But when Argye Briggs, a Baptist housewife and mother of three teen-agers, got \$5,000 in a lump sum, the only thing she bought for herself was a typewriter.

The money came when Mrs. Briggs' often-rejected and now shelfworn novel won the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company's \$5,000 Christian fiction prize. The novel: "Root Out of Dry Ground," which already has an assured circulation of 175,000.

First thing Mrs. Briggs did with her money was to pay a tithe to First Baptist Church of Bartlesville. She believes in tithing, and that had to be done. Then Uncle Sam took his taxes, which left only about \$3,000. The rest she divided 50-50. Half went to her husband, who had encouraged her in her writing. The other half, \$1,500, was earmarked for Baptist missions in China, because she remembered hearing a missionary on furlough describe the need among the masses of the Orient.

Yes, Argye Briggs is broke again, but she's happy. She hadn't written the novel to sell as much as to release the convictions of her own soul. That was done, and all this other too.

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SOUTH CAROLINA GOES 50-50

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--The South Carolina Baptist State Convention adopted a Cooperative Program goal of \$1,600,000 for 1949 and voted to divide all distributable funds on a 50-50 basis between state and Southwide causes.

The Convention adopted the proposed constitution of the South Carolina Baptist Foundation and referred to its executive board the matter of working out details and the employment of a full-time executive secretary for the Foundation. This action was hailed as paving the way for a program of enlargement for the Baptist institutions of the state.

The new \$425,000 building of the Baptist Hospital was dedicated during the Convention meeting. It is named the Whiteside Building in honor of Rev. W. M. Whiteside, for many years superintendent and treasurer of the Hospital. He was unable to attend the service because of illness.

Rev. J. E. Rawlinson, First Baptist Church, Orangeburg, was elected president of the Convention.

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