

September 17, 1965

California Sets Date
To Enter New Building

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Southern Baptist General Convention of California will move into its new office headquarters building here Oct. 23 and dedicate the three-story structure Nov. 2.

The dates were set when the executive board of the convention held its session here.

The new building, containing 30,000 square feet, is in a northeast suburb not far from Fresno State College. It is costing approximately \$445,000. The new location will house all Baptist offices in Fresno, formerly scattered in four places.

The Baptist Book Store is a part of the new Baptist center.

After vacating its present office building, that building will be razed. Facing condemnation or expensive renovation of the present building by city order, the Baptist board chose to rebuild elsewhere and tear down the vacated building.

The lot on which the present building is located will be offered for sale.

In other action, the executive board voted a budget for 1966. The total is \$2,086,992. Of this, anticipated Cooperative Program receipts are \$1,145,000. 26 per cent of the 1966 Cooperative Program receipts will go to the Southern Baptist Convention for work beyond California, compared with 25 per cent sent to the SBC this year. The budget is subject to convention passage.

The total budget, which includes money from other sources as well as the Cooperative Program, is up \$143,154 over 1965. Cooperative Program receipts are expected to increase \$70,000.

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Texas Board Approves
\$11.6 Million Budget

9-17-65

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist executive board meeting here voted to recommend an \$11.6 million budget for 1966, authorized a committee study of special offerings in Texas Baptist churches, and filled two vacancies on its public relations staff.

The record budget, a \$300,000 increase over this year's, will come up for final consideration during the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Houston, Oct. 26-28.

Biggest item in the proposed budget is a \$3,892,636 allocation to world missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

In addition to the \$11.6 million operating budget, Texas Baptists would seek to reach a goal of \$1 million per month--\$12 million total--to missions through the Cooperative Program during 1966.

The \$12 million goal includes a \$322,108 "missionary enlargement" advance section which would be divided equally between Texas Baptist schools, Texas Baptist human welfare and benevolent institutions, and worldwide mission causes.

In other action the board elected Carmel C. (Kandie) Risenhoover of Houston as a press representative in its public relations office, and named Jerry Pate of Dallas as technical director.

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Risenhoover, a former Houston pastor and former news director for Houston Baptist College, succeeds Orville Scott, new editor of Charity and Children, Thomasville, N. C. Pate, a technician at Continental Electronics in Dallas, succeeds Alvin C. Shackelford, newly elected editor of the Indiana Baptist.

The board approved a proposal to appoint a special committee to recommend a policy on special fund drives by Baptist institutions or agencies asking churches in the convention for budget support.

Most of the three-hour meeting was devoted to debate over two items--a \$30,000 allocation in the proposed budget to Bishop College, a National (Negro) Baptist school in Dallas, and a proposal to authorize the convention's Church Loan Corp. to use the interest earned from church loans for evangelism and missions.

Rufus Spraberry, pastor from Mineral Wells, Tex., objected to the allocation to Bishop College because that school accepts federal loans, while schools owned by the convention do not. He made a motion asking that the allocation be given to the board's own schools instead, saying the board should be consistent in policy.

Other board members and its executives objected, saying such action would cause problems in race relations and would be misinterpreted.

After long discussion, the matter was tabled and the budget adopted unanimously as presented.

The proposal to authorize the convention's Church Loan Corp. to use its profits for missions and evangelism was referred back to committee for further study after some board members claimed it would put the church loan organization in competition with the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

By common consent, the board approved helping to sponsor an evangelistic crusade in Puerto Rico next year in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and approved use of punch-type computer ballots during the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Houston. Similar ballots were used at the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas last June.

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Noel Taylor Resigns
As Illinois Executive

9-17-65

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BF)--Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association for nearly 20 years, has resigned effective Oct. 31. Harrison C. Croslin, secretary of stewardship and promotion for Illinois Baptists, was asked to serve as interim executive secretary.

The month of October will be given to Taylor as a vacation period, so that Croslin was to begin duties as interim secretary Oct. 1.

In a companion action, L. H. Moore resigned as associate executive secretary. However, Moore will continue as editor of the association's weekly newspaper here, the Illinois Baptist.

In his resignation announcement, Taylor did not outline his future plans. He said he would disclose them in the near future.

Taylor, whose 19-1/2 years gives him the distinction of having the second longest tenure as executive secretary among 29 state Baptist groups cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention, is a native of Illinois.

He was born in nearby Carterville Nov. 17, 1912. He graduated from high school in Carbondale and holds a degree from what is now Southern Illinois University here. He also has master's and doctor's degrees in theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Taylor was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Marion, Ill., the next town east of Carbondale, when he was called as executive secretary of the state Baptist association in 1946. As executive secretary, he has had offices in the Baptist Building here.

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He was a vice-president for a year of the Southern Baptist Convention, elected when it met in Chicago in 1957.

The executive committee of the board of directors of the state association accepted the resignation on behalf of the full board. It adopted a statement of appreciation for Taylor's "long and distinguished period of service." The committee provided that eight months' salary, including fringe benefits, be given Taylor beyond Oct. 31.

The executive committee will seek Taylor's successor.

Moore resigned as association executive secretary on grounds Taylor's successor in office should select his own associate.

In another action at the board of directors meeting, the state association's 1966 budget was drawn up. As it will be recommended to the state association, it has a Cooperative Program goal of \$875,000 of which 35 per cent will go to the SBC. The total budget, including children's home support and home missions projects, would be \$958,662.

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Wood Leaves Panama
For Southeast Work

9-17-65

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists have taken another administrative move toward more intensive missions to language groups within the United States.

The Convention's Home Mission Board asked L. D. Wood of Panama to become assistant secretary of its language missions department effective Jan. 1.

Wood, who has been Baptist superintendent of missions in the Republic of Panama since 1960, will work with Baptist state conventions in the Southeast and with denominational groups in Cuba, Panama and Puerto Rico.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the department, said, "The election of Wood to this position was prompted by increased demands on the department in the area of administration and by a desire for closer relationship to the work in the states and the outposts."

The mission agency, through the language department, cooperates in the employment of more than 1,200 missionaries and the use of more than \$2-1/4 million annually in working with 35 million people who do not speak English.

Corder said Wood would promote on-the-job training of language missions personnel, special campaigns and ways for churches, associations, and state conventions to witness to language persons. His office will be in Atlanta.

Wood has spent a lifetime in missions service, including two terms with the Foreign Mission Board in Chile, associational work in Texas, and direction of language missions for all of Texas before going to Panama.

Under his leadership, Panama missions have expanded into all sections of the nation and realized its most rapid growth, from less than 60 churches and missions to more than 95, with a corresponding increase in membership.

Wood, a native of Center, Miss., was educated at Mississippi College (Baptist) at Clinton, and at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. From the Fort Worth school he earned the doctor of theology degree.

He served as a chaplain in the U. S. Army from 1933 to 1936 and from 1944-46, and he has been in the reserve chaplaincy otherwise.

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(Pictures available of Wood upon request.)

Jacksonville Hospital
Marks 10th Birthday

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--An open house and special children's party marked the 10th anniversary here of Baptist Memorial Hospital.

The hospital, one of two operated by an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, was completed and opened Sept. 13, 1955. Construction had been in progress since Dec. 31, 1952.

The special children's party was for 10 children designated as "birthday babies." Since the hospital opened, it has been the practice to call the first baby born on anniversary day--Sept. 13--as the hospital's "birthday baby" for that year.

These 10 children, their parents and their childhood friends were invited for the special party. Refreshments, favors and pony rides were provided.

Employees of the hospital, area ministers, members of the medical and dental staff, their husbands and wives, and other friends of the hospital were invited to the open house.

Through its agency, Southern Baptist Hospitals, the SBC operates the local hospital and one in New Orleans. Other hospitals related to the denomination are operated by local or state Baptist bodies.

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Hardin-Simmons Names
Field Representative

9-17-65

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University here has named Boyce Evans, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Abernathy, Tex., as field representative for the Baptist school.

Evans will maintain an office in Lubbock, Tex., and will handle development and student recruitment work in New Mexico, Colorado and west Texas. The 42-year-old minister, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, had been pastor of Baptist churches in Midland, Mansfield and Seagraves, Tex., before going to the Abernathy Church near Lubbock.

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Georgia May Launch
\$10 Million Program

9-17-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee here has approved a new capital needs and endowment program totaling \$10 million.

The funds, which will come from the advance section of the convention's yearly budgets, will amass over an eight-year span. They will benefit all types of Baptist institutions--colleges, hospitals, children's homes and homes for the aged.

Biggest item in the list is \$2 million for Mercer University at Macon to be used on a science center, library and infirmary. Next is \$1,350,000 to help Georgia Baptist Hospital here put up a 250-bed addition.

On money allocated to the colleges, and on some of the other allocations, the institutions are expected to match through their own fund-raising the amount granted by the Baptist convention.

Half of the convention's grants to colleges under the eight-year program will go for construction, the other half for endowment.

In another action pertaining to Mercer, the university got permission to borrow \$500,000 in federal funds to help finance the science center.

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Norman College at Norman Park has petitioned the convention to allow it to change its charter to comply with the Civil Rights Act and admit students without regard to race. It is the only Georgia Baptist college restricted to white students.

The executive committee--which corresponds in authority to an executive board--put its approval behind the Norman College petition.

Like the \$10 million enlargement program, the college's petition is subject to adoption by the Georgia Baptist Convention at its November meeting.

Also subject to convention approval is the \$4,015,000 Cooperative Program goal passed by the executive committee for 1966. After meeting \$487,800 in preferred items, the \$4 million-plus will be divided 50-50 with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new budget includes \$40,000 launching a fund to be used for a new headquarters building here for the convention staff. The present building was described as outdated and overcrowded. No site has been selected. A subcommittee will make a study of possible sites, size of building needed and financing the cost of it.