

September 25, 1965

**New Library Quarters
Dedicated In Nashville**

NASHVILLE (BP)--New quarters for the Dargan-Carver Library to serve the denomination's offices here were dedicated at the close of the annual Southern Baptist Convention Communications Conference.

The 80,000-volume library is the equivalent of the public library in Lubbock, Tex., in the number of volumes. It is located in the lobby of the main administration building of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The library is a joint venture of the board and another SBC agency, the Historical Commission. The commission's offices are next door to the library.

Opened on June 16, 1953 the Dargan-Carver Library is named in memory of two Baptist leaders--Edwin Charles Dargan and William Owen Carver. Dargan was editorial secretary of the Sunday School Board. Carver, a seminary professor, was also chairman of the Southern Baptist Historical Society which he organized in 1938.

The new quarters replace crowded facilities in the same building.

In addition to the books it contains, the library has 6736 rolls of microfilm, which contain eight million pages of materials. The library is open to Southern Baptists who come to Nashville to use its facilities as well as to the staff members of the many Convention agencies located in the city.

Empty shelves in the new library quarters provide enough growing room for it to stock 101,000 volumes.

Displays of rare historical material of Baptist significance are another feature of the new library location. Here too are housed records of district associations of Southern Baptist churches, biographical material on Baptist leaders of yesterday and today, and tape recordings providing an oral history of denominational events.

One of the additions to the oral history collection will be the recording of the library's dedication service for its new quarters. Among those taking part in it were James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, and his forerunner, T. L. Holcomb, and Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the Historical Commission, and his predecessor, Norman W. Cox.

Holcomb, now of Dallas, and Cox, now of Mobile, are both retired.

-30-

9-25-65

**Mission Doors in Africa
Wide Open, Says Dehoney**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Wayne Dehoney, recently returned from a three-week missions tour of Africa, told the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here that missions doors in Africa are wide open to Baptists.

"Not only are the doors wide open, they are even off the hinges," declared Dehoney, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

In some countries, this is a strange paradox, he said, because of Communistic and socialistic influences, strong anti-American feelings, and intense anti-white attitudes.

"The great cry of Africa today is 'Uhuru,' the Swahili word for 'freedom'," he said.

Dehoney added that Southern Baptists find an open door because of its denominational framework from which "freedom" can be expressed better than any other denomination.

-more-

"The Baptist tradition is made to order for Africans, with the Baptist emphasis on an autonomous free church, and a democratic church government in which everyone is equal and everyone is someone," he said.

"The world situation has created circumstances which Baptists can make the greatest contribution to world evangelism the world has ever known," he said.

He challenged those attending the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to lead the denomination in launching, not only the greatest missionary enterprise the denomination has ever seen, but also to match missions abroad with the denomination's greatest effort to make America a Christian nation and build a strong home base.

Dehoney toured most of the African nations in conjunction with a visit to the Republic of Liberia at the invitation of that country's vice president, W. R. Tolbert, recently-elected president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Tolbert had made the Southern Baptist president a "paramount chief" of the Bassa tribe of Liberia, and had authorized Dehoney to return to the United States and make the convention's executive secretary, Porter Routh of Nashville, another "paramount chief" of the tribe.

While bestowing a flowing tribal and chieftan robe on Routh, Dehoney quipped that the privilege also entitled Routh to take ten wives "if you want to."

"Thank you very much," replied Routh, "but one is enough."

Dehoney then outlined the advances made recently in Baptist missions work in Africa, saying he was so thrilled and excited about the missions opportunities and dynamic response in Africa that he wished he could stay.

In Liberia, Dehoney said it was refreshing to see the country's vice-president, a Baptist pastor, going across his country with a single purpose, talking always of the need to win Liberia for Christ.

In Ghana, a strange paradox exists, he said. Here a socialist state with a strong Communistic influence has ordered 500,000 Bibles to place in the public schools for each student.

In Nigeria, Dehoney attended the First Baptist Church of Lagos, and the crowds were bigger than those at his own church in Jackson, Tenn., he said. More than 2,000 people crowded into the church, many having to look in the windows and stand.

In Kenya where the Mau Mau tribes were once so savage that it was too dangerous for the government to allow missionaries to preach, now several converted Mau Mau leaders are some of the top leaders in the churches, he said.

Perhaps the greatest thrill, Dehoney said, came when he conducted the first preaching services ever held for the Karamajong people of Uganda. Fourteen people responded to his invitation to profess faith in Jesus Christ.

The Karamajong people, he explained, are primitive, pastoral persons who live on a diet of blood and milk. They wear no clothes, believing that clothing is a sin against God. Dehoney said that seven Karamajong people were recently speared in the streets because they wore clothes.

"The doors are wide open for you to go as a missionary to Africa," he told the 150 people attending the session. "There is a tremendous need for short-term missionary associates who will serve as pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses."

"But only a few can go. Most of us must stay and hold the rope. Here in America we must reach people, mobilize our total resources, and grow a strong denomination in the 50 states.

"The fresh breath of air in Africa is symbolic of what's happening throughout the world, and we too, must catch fire right here in America," he said.

Doak S. Cambell Named
BEST Project Coordinator

NASHVILLE (BP)--Doak S. Campbell, president emeritus of Florida State University, Tallahassee, has been named co-ordinator for a comprehensive, two-year study of Southern Baptist involvement in Christian higher education, it was reported here.

Herbert C. Gabhart, president of Belmont College, Nashville, representing the steering committee of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST), stated that up to 12,000 persons would be involved in the project during 1966-67.

Addressing the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Gabhart stated that the objectives in the study were to identify and study the problems and opportunities facing the denomination's colleges and universities. From the findings, a special committee will consolidate a report giving "a reasonable basis on which Southern Baptist higher education can advance."

The study project will involve 24 regional seminars to be held in the spring of 1966 and the spring of 1967. Convention-wide study conferences will be held in Nashville, June 13-16, 1966 and June 12-15, 1967.

Campbell will provide professional assistance to the Findings Committee of eighteen members which will compile the final report. Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla. is chairman of the committee.

Nine areas for study will be covered, according to Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, BEST general chairman and executive secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. They are: the Biblical basis for Christian higher education, its history, the philosophy of Christian higher education, religious scope, academic scope, the Christian college teacher, financing Christian higher education, academic freedom, and relationships between colleges and the denomination.

Albert McClellan, Nashville, program planning secretary for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, is chairman of the BEST steering committee. He pointed out that the colleges and universities are operated by the state conventions. The findings of the study will be advisory to the state conventions and to the board of trustees controlling the schools.

Gabhart reported to the SBC Executive Committee, "As a college president I am tremendously enthused about this study. We are going to do everything we can to support it."

Members of the BEST steering committee were selected from the general region of Nashville for accessibility to the place where the groups meetings will be held at frequent intervals, according to Brantley. They include:

Travis M. Adams, assistant executive secretary, Education Commission, SBC, Nashville.

Gordon W. Blackwell, president, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina.

Martin B. Bradley, director, Department of Research and Statistics, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

W. Howard Bramlette, consultant, graduate and professional schools, Student Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Rabun L. Brantley, executive secretary, Education Commission, SBC, Nashville, general chairman.

Margaret Bruce, director, Woman's Missionary Society, Birmingham.

R. Orin Cornett, vice-president, Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C.

W. C. Fields, public relations secretary, Executive Committee, SBC, Nashville.

John A. Fincher, dean, Howard College, Birmingham.

Ben C. Fisher, executive secretary, Council on Christian Education, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.

Herbert C. Gabhart, president, Belmont College, Nashville.

Charles L. Harman, president, Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va.

Bruce Heilman, administrative vice-president, George Peabody College, Nashville.

Marjorie Howard, administrative assistant, Education Commission, SBC, Nashville.

E. N. Jones, secretary, Christian Education Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, vice-chairman.

W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary, Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nashville.

Albert McClellan, program planning secretary, Executive Committee, SBC, Nashville, Chairman.

Gaye L. McGlothlen, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville.

Woodrow W. Phelps, dean of students, Belmont College, Nashville.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary, Executive Committee, SBC, Nashville.

George W. Schroeder, executive secretary, Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

James L. Sullivan, executive secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary, Historical Commission, SBC, Nashville.

F. E. Wright, president, Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

Members of the findings committee are:

Theodore F. Adams, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Olin T. Binkley, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Doak S. Campbell, president emeritus, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla., coordinator.

Grady C. Cothen, executive secretary, The Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno, Calif.

C. R. Daley, editor, Western Recorder, Middletown, Ky.

Lois Edinger, professor, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and former president NEA.

J. Ollie Edmunds, president, Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

Daniel R. Grant, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, chairman.

Frank A. Hooper, federal judge, Atlanta, Ga.

L. D. Johnson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C.

J. W. Lester, director, In-Service Training, Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Ky.

H. Guy Moore, president, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

Dotson M. Nelson, Jr., pastor, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham.

Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., president, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.

Lucius M. Polhill, executive secretary, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Garland F. Taylor, dean, Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

E. Hermond Westmoreland, pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston.

Roosevelt Is Headquarters
For New Orleans Convention

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans was selected as the headquarters hotel for the 1967 session of the Southern Baptist Convention by the SBC Executive Committee meeting here.

The convention meets in New Orleans May 23-26 at a international exhibition center now under construction in New Orleans.

The headquarters hotel will house convention speakers and officials, and it and the other hotels in New Orleans will be filled with 10,000 to 15,000 Baptists from throughout the nation expected to attend.

-30-

Baptist Resolution Tabled
Commending Vatican Council

9-25-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--A recommendation expressing appreciation of reports on the Vatican Council's action on religious liberty was tabled by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee following opposition from the floor.

The recommendation, submitted by the SBC Executive Committee's public relations committee, expressed gratitude for the initial adoption of a Roman Catholic declaration pledging Catholic support of religious liberty for all men.

The chairman of the 58-member Executive Committee, W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson, Miss., was the first to oppose the statement, saying he doubted anything would be achieved by saying something about the Catholic action.

A Baptist pastor from Lynchburg, Va., Albert Simms, made the motion to table the recommendation, saying he didn't want people to think Southern Baptists were in a position of being an appealer, grateful for the favors of some superior group.

The motion to table was not opposed.

After the vote, the executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Harold Sanders of Louisville, said he was deeply disappointed that the matter was killed. Sanders, not an Executive Committee member, had earlier been elected chairman of the convention's public relations advisory committee.

"This implies that we're saying to Roman Catholics, 'We don't even want to talk to you about this matter of religious liberty,'" said Sanders.

Several board members questioned a paragraph in the recommendation which stated that the Executive Committee "now looks forward to an increase in communications between Baptists and Roman Catholics regarding possible solutions and answers to the needs of peace, of freedom, and of justice in our time for all men."

Complete text of the recommendation from the public relations committee stated:

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, being the convention in interim session, has received with appreciation the reports of a favorable vote at the Vatican Council on the principle of religious liberty. That this matter after being under study and discussion for several years was so overwhelmingly supported is cause for deep gratitude.

Aware of the severe conflicts now experienced in many nations and of the international tensions and strife which are rooted in oppression and discrimination, this Executive Committee now looks forward to an increase in communications between Baptists and Roman Catholics regarding possible solutions and answers to the needs of peace, of freedom, and of justice in our time for all men.

-30-

Betsy Prompts Study Of Handling Relief

NASHVILLE (BP)--When the next hurricane hurls through the Southeastern United States, the next tornado twists through the midwest, or the next typhoon troubles the Orient, Southern Baptists may have a special program with which to meet relief needs instantly.

In the wake of hurricane Betsy, which reportedly left \$3 million in damages to Baptist churches and institutions in New Orleans and the surrounding coastal area, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to look into the need for immediate help in disaster emergencies.

The request that the committee do so was made by the chairman himself, W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson, Miss. He said Southern Baptists should have had some way to spring into action immediately after Betsy devastated New Orleans and its environs.

The study will be made by a group including the executive secretaries of the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards and the chairman and staff of the Executive Committee.

Damage from hurricane Betsy included campus destruction placed at \$2 million by officials of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Another \$1 million in damages to Southern Baptist churches in south central Louisiana was reported to the Executive Committee by committeeman Luther B. Hall of Farmerville, La.

At Gulfshore, the Mississippi Baptist Convention's assembly on Bay St. Louis east of New Orleans, water flooded many buildings as the tide from the Gulf of Mexico was driven in by the high velocity winds of Betsy.

However, no deaths at Baptist institutions or churches were reported, nor did known injuries exceed minor cuts and bruises.

Hall said the heaviest damage to churches came in the regions around New Orleans, Slidell, Hammond and Houma, La. Six or seven churches were totally demolished, he said. Many more were damaged.

The Louisiana Baptist Convention office at Box 311, Alexandria began accepting gifts of money, clothing and other goods for distribution to those who lost homes and possessions because of hurricane Betsy, Hall announced.

Chairman Hudgins' plea for a relief fund ready for instant action came from an awareness that several other denominations were able to move into New Orleans as soon as the height of the hurricane had passed, to begin relief operations.

Even though they had no relief fund immediately Southern Baptists were not idle after the hurricane.

New Orleans Seminary students and professors worked with hurricane victims. The seminary changed field missions assignments for students to meet hurricane-created emergencies in the city.

For several weeks, students were assigned to conduct field missions work among the hundreds of refugees at the Algiers Naval Station in New Orleans. Many of the homeless were expected to occupy temporary quarters for as long as three months, a seminary official pointed out.

Other seminary students and professors and their wives volunteered to serve as long as needed by such agencies as the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

More than 400 students and faculty members performed volunteer services in the aftermath of hurricane Betsy.

Postponing her doctor of theology studies for a week, Miss Peggy Argo, a registered nurse, worked practically around the clock at several evacuation centers in the city. New Orleans residents were inoculated against typhoid and other diseases when flooding contaminated drinking water, or caused sewers to overflow in the streets.

The Home Mission Board, which provided aid after the Alaska earthquake and the flash flood in Denver, Colo., stood ready to provide some relief loans or grants for reconstruction or pastors' salaries for churches affected by the hurricane. The Home Board also accepted relief funds and supplies to relay to hurricane victims, through its offices at 161 Spring St., N. W., Atlanta, Ga.

Executive Committee Pays
Tribute to (BP) Reporter

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee paused from a two-day business session here to honor and pay tribute to the assistant director of the Baptist Press, Theo Sommerkamp, who is going to the mission field after ten years on the Baptist news beat.

Executive Committee members contributed from their own pockets to purchase five pieces of luggage for Sommerkamp, his wife and family, who leave in November for Switzerland where Sommerkamp will direct the European Baptist news service.

The big gift-wrapped packages were spread all across the front of the Austin Crouch Room of the SBC Building here. Executive Committee Chairman W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson, Miss., made the presentation.

Earlier, the Executive Committee had adopted a resolution of appreciation for Sommerkamp's work, praising Sommerkamp for "a notable contribution to the life of the denomination."

Said the statement: "Be it therefore resolved that the Executive Committee express its gratitude for his service to Christ and Southern Baptists through religious journalism, and commend him heartily to the Baptists of Europe as the new director of the European Baptist news service. "

Sommerkamp expressed his appreciation to Southern Baptists for the privilege of serving. "I'd like to be a committee of one," said Sommerkamp, "to draft a resolution to show how much I've appreciated the Executive Committee. I've benefitted far more from the experience than I've contributed to the denomination," he said.

The director of Baptist Press, W. C. Fields of Nashville, said that Sommerkamp has been a principal factor in the growth of the denomination's news service during the past ten years.

Fields added, "His professional competence as a reporter has helped earn the respect of reporters and editors across the country. He moves to a Baptist journalism post in Europe with the blessings and best wishes of his colleagues here."

Jim Newton of Dallas, for the past six years an associate in the public relations office of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will succeed Sommerkamp, beginning Nov. 8.

-30-

C O R R E C T I O N

9-25-65

Editors: Please change the name of the vice-chairman of the public relations advisory committee as reported on page 5, Baptist Press mailing dated November 23, 1965. Line 2 of paragraph 2 should read: "elected Paul Stevens, executive director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, as vice-chairman." Please delete name of David K. Morris, who is the outgoing vice-chairman. Thanks.

--- Baptist Press

-30-

9-25-65

EDITORS: Here is the final roundup on the SBC Executive Committee meeting.

SBC Business Conducted,
But No Catholic Praise

By Jim Newton

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, during a session dealing mostly with technical business matters, tabled the most controversial issue--a recommendation expressing gratitude for the Vatican Council's religious liberty statement.

The 58-member committee had earlier referred to subcommittees for study two key matters--the possibility of changing the convention's name, and a proposal to establish a Baptist "diplomatic unit" in Hollywood.

-more-

Meeting in Dallas last June, the convention had instructed the Executive Committee to deal with both matters referred to subcommittees, which will report back to the full body after fact-finding and procedure investigations.

Strong opposition to the Vatican Council recommendation was expressed during the meeting. Those opposed said they did not believe it would do any good, and that it would look like Southern Baptists were "grateful to some superior group."

Most of the meeting was spent in setting up future studies preliminary to action.

A detailed operating budget for the Executive Committee in 1966 was approved along with numerous financial and legal matters.

Executive Committee Chairman W. Douglas Hudgins suggested a study of the possibility of establishing a Southern Baptist relief fund, or channels to help people suffering in the wake of such disasters as hurricanes, tornadoes, or floods.

The secretaries of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards for the convention, working with the chairman and staff of the Executive Committee, were asked to recommend study procedures.

An Executive Committee member from Louisiana, hard hit by Hurricane Betsy, said that Baptist churches and institutions suffered more than \$3 million in damage. The Louisiana Baptist Convention, Box 311 in Alexandria, is accepting contributions to help those who suffered in the tragedy, said Luther B. Hall of Farmersville, La.

The Executive Committee also approved a proposal for Southern Baptist Convention participation in an evangelistic crusade set for 1969 in North, Central and South America.

The Executive Committee chairman and the president of the convention were authorized to appoint six Southern Baptists to serve on a correlating and steering committee with other participating Baptist groups.

Convention President Wayne Dehoney was nominated by the Executive Committee to fill a vacancy on the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee. Dehoney had earlier addressed the group, telling of his recent missions tour in Africa where he said doors are wide open.

The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans was selected as the convention headquarters for the 1967 meeting in New Orleans.

Although no action was taken, the organization's program committee reported that it had gone over drafts of program statements for the SBC Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, and the Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Home Mission Board was authorized to budget up to \$15,000 during 1966 to help support Brotherhood work in Baptist pioneer states.

Special resolutions of appreciation were adopted praising the work of Joe W. Burton, convention recording secretary for 18 years and registration secretary for one year; and Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director of the Baptist Press, news service of the convention.

Other actions taken by the Executive Committee:

--Approved a self-liquidating loan request of up to \$7.8 million from Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, La.;

--Authorized Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., to borrow up to \$600,000 against the capital needs allocation from the convention, 1965-68;

--Approved new charters for New Orleans Baptist Seminary Foundation, and for Southern Baptist Hospital of Florida in Jacksonville;

--Concurred with earlier action of the Southern Baptist Hospital expressing concern because Baptist hospitals were forced to sign a government form listing the institutions as "applicants" for federal financial aid when they comply with the Civil Rights act;

--Approved that rates for gift annuities as recommended by the Annuity Board and Southern Baptist Foundation would be those adopted by the Gift Annuities Conference in Chicago in 1965;

--Instructed auditors for each SBC agency to submit copies of reports on internal control with recommendations for improvement, if any, to the agency head and Executive Committee;

--Authorized specific officers of the SBC Executive Committee to sell and transfer securities when countersigned, and authorized the new Executive Committee bookkeeper, Mrs. Ada Ruth Kelly, to countersign checks;

--Deleted a sentence in the Executive Committee Bylaws permitting proxies on standing or special committees, and authorized payment of the expenses of special committees from the convention operating budget;

--And extended the time of a research project on church vocations one year to September of 1967.

-30-

9-28-65

Executive Committee Okays
1969 Crusade Participation

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention gave initial approval to participating in a "Crusade of the Americas" evangelistic campaign slated for 1969 in North, South, and Central America.

Convention President Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., and Executive Committee Chairman W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson, Miss., were intructed to appoint six Southern Baptist leaders to serve on an over-all steering committee for the crusade.

Baptist bodies from throughout the hemisphere which participate in the simultaneous effort will conduct their own crusades, and elect representatives to the overall steering committee.

Final action on Southern Baptists' participation will come from the convention in Detroit next May. The convention meeting in Dallas last June had encouraged the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards to study crusade possibilities.

Both mission boards recommended that the convention participate, and their request was approved by the SBC Executive Committee and its program committee.

Dates for the crusade in the spring of 1969 will be set by the Home Mission Board's Division of Evangelism, in consultation with state Baptist evangelism secretaries and in keeping with the denominational calendar procedures.

Plans will be coordinated with the convention's special emphasis on "The Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Evangelism and World Missions" slated in 1968-69 as part of the denomination's long-range emphasis themes.

The Crusade of the Americas was first suggested by Rubens Lopez, president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, who proposed the crusade at both the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas and the Baptist World Alliance in Miami Beach, Fla., last June.

The proposal for SBC participation approved here also asked the Foreign Mission Board, in consultation with the missions and conventions of South and Central America and Mexico, to assist in determining the time and procedure in these areas. The Home Mission Board would provide this service for SBC work in Panama, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

-30-