

October 1, 1965

Northeast Convention  
Date Reset For 1968

ROME, N. Y. (BP)--Target date for beginning a new regional convention of Southern Baptists in the Northeastern United States has been reestablished as Jan. 1, 1968.

The new date, delayed one year from the original plan, was arrived at during a steering committee meeting in connection with the annual regional fellowship gathering of people here from churches in New York state, northern New Jersey and the New England states.

The fellowship, formerly known as the New York-New Jersey Fellowship of Southern Baptists, changed its name to the Northeastern Fellowship to recognize the part the New England churches will play in creating a regional convention.

The fellowship bore the names of New York and New Jersey during a time when it was uncertain whether the New England churches would organize separately. The regional convention will be the equivalent of a state convention in Southern Baptist life, of which there are 29 already.

In number of states and mileage covered it would be similar to the present Colorado Baptist General Convention which covers Colorado, Wyoming, both Dakotas, Montana and western Nebraska.

The date was moved back from Jan. 1, 1967 to Jan. 1, 1968 when the steering committee realized there would be too few churches and members by 1967 to make it practical to begin convention status then.

Churches in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls-Rochester area of western New York are presently affiliated with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. All other churches in the Northeastern fellowship are currently affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

By the time of organization on Jan. 1, 1968, the Fellowship hopes for 46 churches and 47 missions in the New York-New Jersey region. A projection for the six New England states was not available.

To allocate funds to a state convention for joint mission work, the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board requires there be 70 churches and 10,000 members total, or 50 churches and 12,500 members at the time a new convention is constituted.

The Northeastern Fellowship apparently would come closest to qualifying in 1968 under the 70 churches, 10,000 member statistics.

Paul Becker, pastor, Southport Baptist Church, Elmira, N. Y., was elected chairman of the Northeastern Fellowship. Walter Agnor of East Hartford, Conn., was elected vice-chairman, and Curtis T. Porter of Tonawanda, N. Y., was elected secretary.

The time adopted for the next regional fellowship meeting is Sept. 23-24, 1966 at Amherst Baptist Church, Tonawanda, a suburb of Buffalo.

Metropolitan Baptist Association of churches, which covers New York City and adjacent New Jersey, now has 17 churches. Central Association, the Syracuse-Elmira area, has six churches at present. Frontier Association, around Buffalo, also has six churches.

There are 16 churches in the six New England states at present, with 2500 members.

Churches in southern New Jersey would be aligned with the state convention already being planned in Pennsylvania.

Pastor Called Vital  
Agent In Mental Care

By Bill Boyd

NASHVILLE (BP)--The American pastor is the only volunteer care giver in our culture and can be an important and vital agent in the prevention of mental crises, according to a minister-psychiatrist.

Dr. David M. Reed, of the department of psychiatry and neurology, Tulane Medical School, New Orleans, and an ordained Presbyterian minister, told the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference here the minister today has both the responsibility and the opportunity to see crises coming and to help prevent them.

"The church's education facilities are the only place in our society where a child can go to be taught by people who are voluntarily trying to help him," continued Dr. Reed. "They will accept him for what he is and they are not doing it for any other reason, expect to help him to become a better person.

"They are in a role where they can see when he is upset and not properly adjusting. Parents can be called and told of the child's need in time to avert impending crisis. Tact and timing in such situations is important and referral to others who can help is also vital at this point."

Dr. Reed warned that "often the clergyman is so tied up in his own fears of making a mistake that he will do nothing to help."

He said the clergy must accept the responsibility of learning what to do and do it, but he warned that one can give too much help and do too much talking.

Dr. Edward C. Norman, of the same department and school, pointed out that there are several problems which are causing a growing number of emotional crises. He listed loss of loved ones, loss of financial security, or the threat of the loss of jobs and one's loss of youth.

Dr. Norman said many of these problems are pushed into the crises area when those involved fail to accept the existence of the problem and attempt to solve it.

He said such people need help in understanding that their loved ones die and they must still continue to live. Ministers and others involved must help people caught in such crises to work out their problems by facing them with the determination to solve them.

Charles A. Trentham, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., described the church as a servant of humanity and as a healing community.

"We have driven people from the church because we have made them feel like pawns pursued or objects for our manipulation rather than God-created persons," said Trentham.

"It is possible for us to think so much of God, the Redeemer, that we forget God, the Creator. It is blasphemous for us to try to make one whom God has created into a pattern of our own conceiving, for even our interpretation of the good life of Christ is still only our interpretation.

"This is fortunate. What a tangled, twisted, distorted mess every man would be if he were susceptible to being made over by every other man."

He cited the need of the church to provide a place where man can find himself and respect.

"We so easily get submerged in the crowd and lost in the outside world," continued Trentham. "But, if we allow people to get lost inside the church that is tragic."

"Every person needs a citadel where he can be esteemed. A citadel where his selfhood is respected, and where he is not lost as a person. We must be a church which provides such a citadel," according to the Knoxville pastor.

The Counseling and Guidance Conference is made up of several smaller organizations including sections on clinical pastoral education, pastoral care, social services, family ministry and vocational guidance.

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More than 212 attended the 1965 annual conference which was sponsored jointly by the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC Christian Life Commission helps plan the conference and provides secretarial service for it through the year.

Participants come from organizations inside and outside of the denomination. They include welfare workers with public agencies, church social workers, hospital chaplains, pastors, college and seminary professors, vocational guidance counselors, children's workers, marriage and family counselors and professional workers with Southern Baptist agencies in other fields.

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#### Counseling Groups Name Their Officers

10-1-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--David B. Edens, director of counseling, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., was elected president-elect of the Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference here.

John Boyle, executive chaplain, Louisville General Hospital, Louisville, Ky., took office as the president of the group for 1965-66.

The conference voted to hold its next meeting Sept. 26-28 in Nashville. The theme for the 1966 meeting will be, "Worship, Ministry and Group Processes."

Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, was elected secretary and treasurer and Miss Velma Darbo, editor of Upward, a youth publication of the Baptist Sunday School Board here, was named recording secretary.

Section chairmen named for the various groups which are part of the conference are as follows:

The Southern Baptist Association for Clinical Pastoral Education--E. A. Verdery, director, department of pastoral service, Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta.

Southern Baptist Association for Pastoral Care, Mallory S. May, III, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Brunswick, Ga.

Southern Baptist Social Service Association, James K. Vaughn, child welfare representative, U. S. Children's Bureau, Atlanta, Ga.

The Church's Family Ministry, Grady Randolph, pastor, First Baptist Church, Harrisburg, Ill.

Vocational Guidance, Norman Godfrey, director, young men's department, SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

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#### New Zealand Crusade Reports 1,969 Converts

10-1-65

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (BP)--New Zealand Baptists reported "unexpected responses" to their first national evangelistic campaign which resulted in 1,969 conversions and 2,118 other decisions.

Roland Hart of Auckland said the nearly 2,000 converts represented one for every eight members of their 125 churches.

John Havlik of Atlanta, associate director of the evangelism division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said, "If we had a similar numerical response to revivals in our churches in the United States as this one-to-eight ratio, there would be more than 1,300,000 professions of faith."

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An evidence of the crusade's impact was reported at the Chinese Baptist Church in Wellington, which attracted as many as 300 a night, including many university students.

One of those making a profession of faith in the Chinese Church was the Chinese (Taiwan) ambassador to New Zealand. Dan H. Kong, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Honolulu, preached to the Chinese at Wellington and at Auckland.

Many schools, colleges and universities invited the visiting evangelists to preach, with the understanding the messages would be evangelistic.

One evangelist, speaking to the Wellington Rotary Club, received an unexpected lengthy ovation at the conclusion of his message.

The small two-island nation of some 2-1/2 million people learned of the Baptist effort through newspapers and some broadcasts on the state-owned television.

The departing evangelists, at the close of the two weeks of revivals, met crowds of New Zealand Baptists at every airport. Some groups totaled as many as 300 and others as high as 600.

Havlik reported, "Many of us and the New Zealanders, who sang hymns and 'Auld Lang Syne,' were weeping openly as we departed. The revivals had welded bonds of faith and friendship."

Evangelist Hart, crusade director for New Zealand Baptists, praised the 104 visiting ministers from the United States.

"This has been a wonderful crusade," he said. "Reports from all areas tell of blessings. We want to thank the generous people and churches of the United States for sending us a group of capable and dedicated men."

Codirector of the evangelism effort was Eual F. Lawson of Atlanta, also an associate director of the evangelism division of the Southern Baptist home mission agency.

He said, "The churches in New Zealand prepared well for this effort, both in prayer and in organization. We preached to more lost people because of their efforts than we ordinarily do in revivals in the United States."

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#### South Africa Baptists Announce 1966 Crusade

10-1-65

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)--The Baptists of South Africa have joined a growing list of Baptists in other nations planning simultaneous evangelistic crusades.

Churches in the Baptist Union of South Africa set May 1-15, 1966, as the dates for their national evangelism effort.

The South Africa churches have asked the evangelism division of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to aid them in conducting the crusade and in enlisting evangelists from the United States.

The simultaneous crusade is an evangelism technique developed by Southern Baptists in which churches within a given geographic area plan for individual church revivals to be held at the same time.

Churches in such a crusade share in publicity, hold joint leadership planning sessions and often have joint sessions in one location.

The Baptist Union of South Africa, with headquarters in Johannesburg, reports 164 churches with more than 16,000 members, in addition to the churches and missions of their missionary society.

More than 16 million people inhabit the nearly half-million square miles of South Africa, located on the Southern tip of Africa.

This population is composed of three major groups, the largest being the Bantu, or Negro tribes; the second, whites and third, Asiatics.

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The South Africa Baptist Missionary Society works with the Bantu peoples and reports more than 300 places of worship with 26,000 members.

Roger Voke of East London, South Africa, and Eual F. Lawson of Atlanta, Ga., associate director of the evangelism division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will serve as codirectors of the crusade.

Lawson will lead in enlisting evangelists from the United States.

Lawson recently completed direction of an evangelistic crusade in New Zealand and is now in South Africa making preparation for this effort.

He said nearly 100 South African churches have indicated willingness to take part in the crusade, and the other churches are being contacted.

Lawson felt the crusade would help in pioneering the Baptist witness in areas without churches where evangelism campaigns could be held. In fact, he said the churches already have mentioned 22 possible areas for such efforts.

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Louisiana Board Sets  
Hurricane Relief Day

10-1-65

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--The executive board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention voted here to set Sunday, Oct. 17, aside as "Hurricane Relief Day," appealing to all Louisiana Baptists to help reach a goal of from \$300,000 to \$500,000 to aid victims of Betsy.

Robert L. Lee, Alexandria, executive secretary, said funds will be used to help restore churches and parsonages. They will also be used to aid pastors and missionaries who lost their personal belongings and income as a result of the recent hurricane, which affected most heavily the New Orleans vicinity.

Funds were also being accepted from Baptists in other states. The mailing address was given as Hurricane Relief, Baptist Building, Box 311, Alexandria, La. 71301.

In another action, the 75-member executive board approved a \$3,050,000 state convention budget for 1966. The budget is subject to adoption of the Louisiana convention in session Nov. 16-18 at Shreveport.

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Mississippi Acts On  
Budget, Civil Rights

10-1-65

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention board adopted a record \$3,240,000 Cooperative Program budget for 1965-66.

The proposed budget, to be presented to the state convention in November, is \$242,000 higher than this year's outlay of \$2,998,000.

The board also authorized its president, T. R. McKibbens, Laurel, and its executive secretary-treasurer, Chester L. Quarles, Jackson, to borrow any necessary amount not to exceed \$250,000 to repair damage to the Gulfshore assembly property which was flooded by Hurricane Betsy.

The state convention will be asked to authorize an additional maximum of \$500,000 for the proposed new Baptist Building in Jackson. Recent studies have revealed it will be impossible to provide space in the structure within the limits of the \$750,000 authorized by the 1964 convention.

Quarles said the space will be needed for future expansion and parking facilities, over a possible 20-year period. The financing of the project will be over a 20-year period, payments to be provided by a capital funds allocation in the regular convention budget.

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The 1966 budget, like the current one, is in three divisions--Southern Baptist Convention causes, state causes and capital needs.

The new budget allocation for SBC causes is \$1,069,200, an increase of \$80,200 over the current allotment of \$989,000.

Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, owned jointly by the Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi Baptist conventions, which has received allocations annually, will receive no allotment for the coming year.

Quarles explained allocations to the hospital had been reduced gradually and finally terminated by agreement with the hospital. More of the state funds will go to Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson and other state causes.

In the new budget all funds received over \$3,240,000 will be allocated 67 per cent to the headquarters building fund, 33 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

The convention board denied the request of the trustees of Mississippi Baptist Hospital for an "expression of policy" by adopting a motion "reaffirming our confidence in the responsibility and authority of the trustees in the matter of making policy decisions."

Zack T. Hederman, Jackson, chairman of hospital trustees, presented the request for "an expression policy" in the decision the hospital faces as to whether to sign the federal government civil rights "compliance pledge."

The convention board, after a lengthy discussion, said, "We pledge our full support to said board of trustees in whatever decision they deem necessary and wise to make."

The convention's education commission presented this resolution which was adopted by the board:

"We commend the trustees of each institution for acting according to their best judgment in the delicate matter of the 'compliance pledge' and renew our dedication, as the education commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, to each and all of our educational institutions as they face the task of providing high-quality, Christian education with limited funds."

Three of the convention's colleges, Mississippi College, Blue Mountain, and Clarke, did not sign the federal civil rights "compliance pledge" while one, Carey College, Hattiesburg, did comply.

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October 1, 1965

### New Law Provides Aid To Arts, Humanities

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Federal aid to the arts and humanities will be provided by the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 which President Johnson signed into law.

This is the second major education legislation to become law during the first session of the 89th Congress. Another proposal, the Higher Education Act of 1965, is pending in a conference committee of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The new measure will establish the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. This foundation will be composed of a National Endowment for the Arts, a National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. The council will serve as a board of directors to oversee the activities of the two endowments.

The arts endowment will provide matching grants to nonprofit or public groups and to individuals, and to the states for a wide range of workshops, performances and other artistic activities. The humanities endowment will support scholarship and research in the humanities through fellowships, grants and loans to institutions and individuals.

"Arts," as described in the new law, will include, though not limited to, "music (instrumental and vocal), dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, tape and sound recording, and the arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of such major art forms."

It defines "humanities" as including, but not limited to, "the study of the following: languages, both modern and classic; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archeology; the history, criticism, theory and practice of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods."

Most aid to education thus far has been in the area of student loans and scholarships, school construction, and categorical type aid for equipment, etc. This is the first time federal financial assistance has been provided for the arts and humanities.

In signing the bill into law President Johnson announced his intention to create federally supported national companies of the performing arts. He said the new foundation, with the help of state and local governments and private groups, would create a National Repertory Theater, a National Opera Company and a National Ballet Company, and an American Film Institute. It would commission new works of music by American composers and support symphony orchestras, and bring more artists to schools and universities by creating grants for their time in residence.

The measure authorizes \$20 million for the first year, but the funds must still be appropriated by Congress.

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### Senate Would Establish Roger Williams Memorial

(10-1-65)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A national memorial to Roger Williams, early defender of religious freedom and founder of the first Baptist church in America, would be established according to a bill passed by the United States Senate.

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October 1, 1965

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Baptist Press

The bill, sponsored by Senators John O. Pastore (D.) and Claiborne Pell (D.) of Rhode Island, passed the Senate with almost no discussion.

The memorial would be established at the site of the "old town spring" in Providence, traditionally called Roger Williams Spring. The purpose of such a memorial, as stated in the bill, is to commemorate Roger Williams' "outstanding contributions to the development of religious freedom in this country."

The Senate report on the bill states that Roger Williams' "best-known contributions to the development of America lie in his complete insistence on religious freedom and the separation of church and state at a time and in an area where both were vigorously denied."

It also points out that he "was a progenitor of many of the ideas that were later written into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and a person to whom all Americans owe a debt of gratitude."

A companion bill has been reported from committee and is pending in the House of Representatives. Advocates hope for approval before Congress adjourns this year.

In 1960 a similar bill passed the Senate but died in the House. Bills to establish such a memorial have been introduced in other sessions of Congress but were not acted upon.



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