

October 6, 1965

**Pennsylvania Reveals
Preconvention Plans**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)--An evangelism conference and simultaneous revivals in 1967 and a functioning program of religious education in 1968 have been planned as a prelude to forming a new state Baptist convention in Pennsylvania.

The proposed convention would also include Southern Baptist churches in southern New Jersey. Target date for beginning the new convention is Jan. 1, 1969, according to action taken during a regional fellowship meeting here.

The Pennsylvania state convention would pick up churches now affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland and with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. It would stretch from the Atlantic seashore to the Ohio border west of Pittsburgh.

It might be the 32nd state convention to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention in national and world denominational programs. There are 29 such conventions now, and plans are under way for other state conventions in New York-New England, jointly, and in West Virginia.

The Ohio convention would contribute churches to each of the three prospective new conventions. So would the Maryland convention if it had cooperating churches inside the West Virginia boundary to become affiliated with a new West Virginia convention.

The 1969 target date for the Pennsylvania state convention was announced during the annual fellowship meeting of Southern Baptists from Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, held here.

The new convention expects to have 70 churches and 10,000 church members total when it is organized. This would qualify it to receive financial aid from the SBC Home Mission Board for joint state missions and home missions projects. Such aid is vital to the financial health of a new convention.

The Pennsylvania convention apparently would have three major associations of churches--one in greater Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania, one in the Harrisburg area in the central part of the state, and the third covering the area from Philadelphia to Atlantic City on the Jersey coast.

Courts Redford, retired executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, now living in Biller, Mo., delivered the principal address at the regional meeting in Harrisburg.

Strength of the convention area to date was estimated as 23 churches, 18 missions and combined membership of 4000 in these churches and missions.

George Bagwell, layman from the church in Absecon, N. J., was reelected chairman of the fellowship. Charles A. Jolly of Pittsburgh was elected vice-chairman, and Kenneth A. Estep of Elizabethtown, Pa., was elected secretary. Jolly and Estep are pastors.

The steering committee, which will help develop plans for the fellowship's future activities and meetings, includes the three elected officers, area missionaries from the three major sections the convention would cover, and the moderators of these three district associations of churches, plus three members at large.

Date of the 1966 fellowship will be Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Site will be Paoli, Pa., in the greater Philadelphia area.

Christians 'Could Aid'
Pakistan-India Crisis

By Roger Cantrell

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Christians could help end the current India-Pakistan tensions by acting as mediators between the warring factions, an evangelist from the Punjab state of India where most of the fighting has taken place said at Baylor University here.

"Both parties trust the Christians," said Akbar Abdul-Haqq, an associate with the Billy Graham team. He spoke seven times during the Baptist school's Religious Focus Week.

"Christians may not be able to help in settling the Kashmir situation, but they could help in relieving tensions," Haqq said in an interview here.

Although the current outbreak is allegedly over the disputed area of Kashmir, Haqq said part of the background of ill will between the nations is found in religious differences. Pakistan is predominately Muslim; India is Hindu.

Haqq said the Christian minority gained the trust of both Muslim and Hindu during the rioting of 1947 when the nations of Pakistan and India were formed.

"The only parties helping refugees on both sides were Christians," he said.

Haqq, who was born into a Christian family, was one of the Christians who carried on refugee relief.

The 45-year-old Methodist evangelist said he plans to conduct an evangelistic crusade in India during October and November. Haqq said he expects a successful campaign when he returns to his native country.

Haqq has been an associate on the Graham Evangelistic Team since 1960. Before that he interpreted for Graham during the 1956 New Delhi crusade and assisted in Graham crusades in the United States. He also was a major speaker in the Japan Baptist New Life Movement.

Haqq said he tells the people of the East that Christianity is meant for both East and West. "Christ was not an American," he said. "Christ was Asian."

He added that he stresses in his Eastern crusades the same idea he presented to Baylor students in the opening service of the Religious Emphasis Week: that Christ did not come to establish a religion, but "he came that we may have life and have it more abundantly." That is something Eastern religions do not offer, he said.

Haqq holds a doctor of philosophy degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., as well as other degrees from the University of Punjab, his native state.

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Missionaries' Kids
Give \$117 To SBC

10-6-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The children of Southern Baptist Convention missionaries stationed in Seoul, Korea, have given \$117 in a Sunday school offering to be used in supporting denominational work through the Cooperative Program.

The gift was announced here by Porter Routh, SBC treasurer, who received it from Seoul Mission Treasurer Ted H. Dowell.

Much of the gift will be used to support foreign mission work, since the largest share of SBC Cooperative Program income goes to the Foreign Mission Board.

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Judson College Asked To Go Coeducational

MONTGOMERY (BP)--A special study committee of the Alabama Baptist State Convention has asked trustees of Judson College to make the school coeducational by September, 1966 and to set a tentative deadline of 1968 to enrol 550 students with existing facilities.

The study committee report was approved here by the executive board of the convention. Judson, operated by the Alabama convention, is a senior college for women located in Marion, Ala. Its enrolment has been around 350.

The convention operates two coeducational schools--Howard College in Birmingham and Mobile College.

The Alabama board recognized the question of admitting all academically qualified students to Baptist schools. It recommended "the boards of trustees of the institutions of higher education be assured of the convention's confidence in them and in their ability to determine wisely admission policies."

The 32-page study report deals primarily with the three Alabama Baptist colleges. This report will be presented to the state convention in November for adoption and plans to carry out its proposals.

J. Lamar Jackson, Birmingham pastor who is chairman of the committee, pointed out the education picture before Alabama Baptists was studied with several questions in mind:

How much money can Baptists put into their colleges?

How will funds be divided?

How many schools can Alabama Baptists support?

How many students can the Baptist colleges serve?

William M. Beck, Fort Payne, acting president of Judson College and trustee chairman, explained the trustees had not yet reviewed the study committee report concerning Judson. "We had hoped to continue as a woman's college, but of course, the wishes of the convention will be ours," Beck said.

"Our present faculty can take care of an enlarged student body," he continued. Asked if Judson could reach the 550-student mark by November, 1968, Beck replied: "There's no question--we expect to do it."

Pressed to predict the response of Judson trustees to the report, he commented, "I foresee mixed reaction, but I feel that the majority of our board will go along with the recommendation."

The executive board voted to give the three colleges freedom to participate in certain federal government programs which in the board's opinion do not violate separation of church and state. It reserved the right for the convention to decide on participating in government programs not already approved.

The plans of Howard College to attain university status and change its name also won executive board support. The college would be renamed Samford University, in honor of Frank P. Samford, layman trustee and financial contributor.

A team of education consultants earlier studied the Baptist higher education picture in Alabama. This led to a preliminary suggestion that Judson College and Mobile College consider merging the two schools, retaining the Mobile site.

Judson's trustees responded with an expression that "it is in the best interests of Alabama Baptists that Judson College be maintained as presently constituted."

The executive board of the convention acted on two other matters at its meeting here.

It approved the study committee's recommendation that 30 per cent of all Cooperative Program receipts each year from Alabama churches go to the three colleges. The goal is now about \$4 million a year, meaning support of colleges from this would be close to \$1-1/4 million.

Looking to the 150th birthday of the Alabama convention, the board approved goals for growth by 1973, the anniversary date. These include 3,100 affiliated churches, combined church membership of 850,000, total gifts of \$57 million of which \$5 million are for the Cooperative Program, and \$3.5 million in special offering gifts.

Paul R. Adkins Heads
Executive Association

NASHVILLE (BP)--Paul R. Adkins of Dallas has been elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Executives of Homes for the Aging.

Adkins, director, department of aging, Buckner Baptist Benevolences, was elected at the association's annual meeting here. The association is a comparatively new organization which includes directors of about 15 homes for the aging operated by state Baptist conventions.

The Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission office here serves as secretariat for the association.

The association will hold its 1966 meeting June 22-23 at Winston-Salem, N. C., with the Baptist home in North Carolina as host.

A professor at the University of North Carolina, Alan Keith-Lucas of Chapel Hill, was keynote speaker at the 1965 session here. He has spoken to Baptist child care groups as well as other Baptist conferences.

A Presbyterian by personal allegiance, Keith-Lucas told the Baptist executives of homes for the aging:

"I could have become a Baptist because of what I have seen you do. I learned more about what Christianity is from one housemother at Connie Maxwell than I ever have from a preacher. In her support of a delinquent child in great need, she showed infinite compassion for people who find morality hard."

Connie Maxwell is the name of the South Carolina Baptist home for children.

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SBC Appears Headed
For Budget Record

10-5-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention appears to be on its way to topping its Cooperative Program budget goal for the year and receiving record funds to support the missionary, educational and benevolent work of its agencies.

The Sept. 30 statement for the Convention shows total collections for the 1965 calendar and fiscal year have reached \$16,107,835. If the final quarter of the year follows the pace of the first three quarters, the SBC's Cooperative Program receipts will reach \$22 million.

The budget goal for 1965 is \$20,335,600. This includes an estimated \$500,000 advance fund to be shared exclusively between foreign and home missions. The amount needed to meet the operating and capital needs of the agencies is \$19,835,600.

No matter how large the amount collected above \$19,835,600, all of it will go as advance funds to foreign and home missions, Convention leaders said.

Porter Routh, Nashville, treasurer of the Convention, said September Cooperative Program receipts from state Baptist conventions totaled \$1,637,431. This was ahead of September, 1964 when \$1,581,630 came in. It trailed slightly behind receipts of \$1,792,452 in August, 1965.

Designations for September, 1965 amounted to \$151,656. In August, they were \$296,342 and a year ago in September they were \$215,863. For the first nine months of 1965, designations stand at \$16,491,349.

Cooperative Program funds are sent from the 33,500 affiliated SBC churches to state Baptist convention offices. About one-third of the funds from the churches reaches the Southern Baptist Convention for denominational work on national and world scale.

It is allocated according to a percentage scale adopted by the Convention. Designations go only to the agency indicated by givers.

Southern Baptist Convention figures reported here do not include money retained for local use by churches nor funds kept by state Baptist conventions.

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