

October 14, 1965

Georgia Commission  
Report Against Tax Aid

ATLANTA (BP)--A recommendation that Georgia Baptist Convention institutions not accept grants from the federal government, but instead increase Cooperative Program gifts from the churches by a substantial amount, has been presented by the convention's education commission.

The education commission's statement did not mention federal loans. The recommendation goes to the Georgia Convention executive committee, which will then make its recommendation to the Convention, which meets in Augusta, Nov. 15-17.

The wording of the key recommendation in the education commission report reads: "It appears to the education commission that it is not wise in view of prevailing opinion for the Georgia Baptist Convention to approve the acceptance of grants from the federal government by Georgia Baptist colleges. Therefore, it is recommended that Georgia Baptists provide through the Cooperative Program additional financial support to assist the colleges in meeting their needs."

The commission recommended all churches not now giving 15 per cent of their receipts to the Cooperative Program give at least that amount, and that all now giving 15 per cent or more increase their gifts by 2 per cent of their receipts.

The commission's statement came after it conducted four public hearings across the state to gather grass roots opinion on the question of federal aid to Baptist institutions. Trustees of Mercer University, Macon, and Norman Junior College, Norman Park, had requested a fresh study of the aid issue because of pressing financial needs.

About 415 people attended the four hearings. Seventy-three speakers opposed federal grants and only eight spoke in favor of them.

Allen B. Comish, pastor, Waldrop Memorial Baptist Church, Columbus, is chairman of the education commission.

-30-

10-14-65

Dick H. Hall Jr.  
Joins Atlanta College

ATLANTA (BP)--Dick Houston Hall Jr. has resigned after 25 years as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., to become vice-president for development for the proposed Atlanta Baptist College.

The change will officially be effective Jan. 1, but Hall will assume some of the college duties earlier. The church was expected to elect him pastor emeritus.

Hall has long been prominent in Georgia and Southern Baptist Convention affairs. He was president of the SBC Home Mission Board for many years; headed the program description committee for the Foreign Mission Board in 1963-64; was secretary and major contributor to the special committee which revised the SBC statement of faith and message in 1963, and is vice-president of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU).

Hall will be the first fulltime leader elected by Atlanta Baptist College, which has been in the talking and fund-raising stage for 10 years. The drive has received about \$2 million in cash and pledges and has bought and paid for a 565-acre tract in northeast Atlanta.

The target date for opening of classes is September, 1967.

-30-

October 14, 1965

Baptist Press

Noel Taylor Takes  
Broadway Bond Post

CARBONDALE, ILL. (BP)--Noel M. Taylor, who recently resigned as executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, has accepted a position as vice-president of the Broadway Plan of Church Finance, Inc.

He will assume his new position immediately. He and Mrs. Taylor will move from Carbondale to Houston, Tex., where the home office of Broadway Bond Co. is located.

Taylor will devote much of his time to promoting the bond plan which was pioneered in Illinois while he served as executive secretary of the Baptist state association. He will also promote other phases of the Broadway Co. church and institutional financing programs.

-30-

Madrid Church Hangs  
Out Identifying Sign

10-14-65

By Gainer E. Bryan Jr.  
For Baptist Press

MADRID, SPAIN--The English-speaking Baptist church of Madrid has scored another first.

It was the first Baptist church in Spain to have a sign out front identifying it as a church. Now it is the first to have a building located on a main thoroughfare where it can be seen by the world.

This may signal the beginning of the emergence of Baptist churches in Spain from the ghetto.

The English-speaking church now has acquired a former residence within view of the Avenue of America, a major artery which carries the highway to Barcelona. The building, an imposing diamond in the rough, is completely detached from other buildings, another innovation in Spanish Baptist churches.

Usually they fit into an anonymous facade of buildings, row-house-like. Unoccupied when acquired, it is being renovated.

Still another first will be a parking lot on the property, which has considerable grounds.

The church is composed primarily of U.S. Air Force personnel and their families from nearby Torrejon Air Force Base of the Strategic Air Command. However, a few American businessmen and their families living in Madrid are beginning to discover it.

It now occupies a rented apartment house. Displayed on the wall inside is the permit by the Ministry of the Interior for the building to be used as a church. On another wall is displayed the special permit to have a sign. The sign lists the services of the church and the day and hour they are held.

James Watson, Southern Baptist missionary from Fairfield, Okla., has been pastor of the church since he came to Spain in 1963.

About 16 adults and a like number of children were present for prayer meeting when the writer attended. The record board on the wall showed 152 enrolled in Sunday school with 134 present the past Sunday--99 enrolled in Training Union with 70 present.

In a brief business session one of the members complained that Sunday school officers were not being strict enough in classifying new members by age the first Sunday they attended. It seemed much like a Baptist church anywhere.

Missionary Journeyman Larry Leaton has arrived in Madrid where he will remain until he can get a visa to Israel. From Fort Lauderdale, Fla., he was one of the visitors at prayer meeting.

The Charles Whittens, veteran missionaries from Mississippi, and their family are members here.

-30-