

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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Evangelism Adds Allison For Academic Community

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists have intensified their national efforts in evangelism with the academic community.

The denomination's Home Mission Board here elected a professor of evangelism as an associate director of its Division of Evangelism with assignment in this area.

He is B. Gray Allison of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, widely known within the denomination as an evangelist, writer, and teacher.

Director of the evangelism division, C. E. Autrey of Atlanta, said the new associate would work with others in the denomination "in keeping alive witnessing on all college campuses."

Autrey said Allison would serve with faculty, administration, and pastors adjacent to campuses to encourage evangelism with the academic community.

The associate will work with Baptist and state schools and with Southern Baptist seminaries. At the seminaries he will hold evangelistic workshops.

Southern Baptists have become known for their evangelism efforts, which have helped the denomination to become the largest of Protestant groups with more than 10 ½ million members.

The mission agency's evangelism division led the churches in baptizing more than 385,000 converts last year.

Allison, a native of Ida, La., graduated from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1947, and earned his bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

During World War II he served as U.S. Army Air Corps pilot, then worked for an insurance company before entering the ministry. He was pastor of churches in Louisiana before starting a career of teaching at the New Orleans Seminary in 1954.

He taught history, missions, and then evangelism at the seminary. During the period of 1960 to 1964 he did general evangelism work with Baptist churches throughout the nation and world. He visited Baptist mission fields in the Orient, Latin America, Europe, and Africa.

He wrote "Now Unto Him," messages from Jude, and has contributed to Baptist publications.

He married Voncille Cruse and they have three children.

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Baptists Ask Churches For Cuban Refugee Aid

(11-2-65)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist missions official here has asked the denomination's churches to come to the aid of the expected new influx of Cuban refugees.

The organization set up to meet the initial need of refugees is still in operation. State leadership of the refugee relief and resettlement program have already been notified of their responsibility during the anticipated new influx of Cuban refugees.

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Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the language missions department of the Baptist Home Mission Board, said the aid was needed now for the refugees Fidel Castro has allowed to leave the island in recent weeks and more will be needed if proposed plans are carried through to completion.

The form of the aid needed ranges from resettlement to clothing, food, and personal items.

Corder encouraged churches to consider resettling one of the Cuban families. Southern Baptist churches have resettled nearly 1,500 families since the refugee program started.

He said churches can help by assisting the families with a place to stay, furniture, clothing, and employment. Quite often the assistance does not require much financial help, since church members usually donate what is needed.

"The assistance given by the churches is simply temporary, not a continuing obligation," Corder said. "The government pays their transportation from Miami to the city of resettlement, and the churches help until employment is found."

He said churches interested should contact the Cuban refugee chairman at their state Baptist offices.

"This is a national problem, and we should not leave all of the burden on those in Miami," Corder added.

If churches can assist with clothing, food, or welcome kits (personal items such as soap, razors, etc.), these should be sent to the Cuban Relief and Resettlement Center, 3318 N.W. 17th Ave., Miami, Fla. 33125.

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Student Director Named
For Ohio State University

(11-2-65)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Joe D. Pool, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Groveport, Ohio, has been named the first full-time worker with Southern Baptist Convention students on the campus of Ohio State University.

Students on the campus from Southern Baptist Convention churches number 175. Pool will coordinate Southern Baptist student activities in the entire Columbus area also.

He will be employed jointly by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, the Capital City Association of Baptists, and the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Colorado Observes Ten
Years of Baptist Progress

(11-2-65)

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (BP)--A \$500,000 budget for 1966 was adopted here by the tenth anniversary session of the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

When the state convention was organized in 1955 there were 89 cooperating Baptist churches with 10,000 members. Current membership was reported at 38,500 in 191 churches.

Glenn Braswell, executive secretary, pointed out that in ten years the churches had given more than \$600,000 to world missions through the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings.

In 1966 the Cooperative Program goal is \$264,713. Other budget funds will come from the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina contributes \$5,000 to the budget, designated for Baptist work in North Dakota.

Lewis Adkison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Security, Colo., was elected president of the convention.

Calling attention to problems other conventions are having with college financing, Braswell announced plans for Chairs of Bible adjacent to selected state college campuses. A Bible Chair at the University of Wyoming will be the first undertaking.

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In a resolution adopted, the convention said, "We affirm our Baptist position as a convention, integrated by both individual churches and association in the worldwide racial strife, that Christian love based on Biblical principles of brotherhood, be our guidelines in solving such racial tensions."

Another resolution said, "In the light of the recent discussion concerning the change of the name of the Southern Baptist Convention, we indicate our interest and encouragement to the committee named by the Convention to study the name change, that is, that they look with favor toward such a name change."

Another resolution stated that, "we protest the free television time given by the three major networks for the sectarian worship service conducted by Pope Paul VI in Yankee Stadium in New York during his recent visit."

Furthermore, the convention stated, "In view of the continually deteriorating situation of wars involving many nations of our world today, that we wholeheartedly affirm that the answer to the problem involving these nations will be resolved only by turning to Christ as the only hope of the world."

The 1966 convention will meet in Rapid City, South Dakota, October 25-27. Sessions will be held in the Municipal Auditorium.

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Texas Baptists Avoid
Federal Aid Action

(11-2-65)

HOUSTON (BP)--Federal aid to Texas Baptist institutions, expected to be the biggest issue facing the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting here, never got to the convention floor.

Although a floor fight on the question of Baptist institutions accepting federal loans and/or grants was averted, the issue was thoroughly debated from the pulpit.

A special church-state study committee appointed earlier this year will decide the issue and report back to the convention and its executive board next year.

The committee got plenty of advice from speakers on the convention program, with three major addresses devoting a major part of their messages to the church-state separation principle involved.

Outgoing convention president Abner V. McCall, also president of Baylor University, spent his entire presidential address on the issue, saying that Baptists have often taken federal aid for purposes they considered worthy, and that the committee should take the existing conditions into consideration when the decision is made.

During the annual convention sermon, Dallas minister Herbert R. Howard said accepting federal aid would "mute our holy voice and compromise the church's freedom."

Another major speaker, H. Jack Flanders of Waco, argued that the church and state often have common and shared objectives, and that the two might walk together without jeopardizing the autonomy of either.

Only major actions of the convention included election of a new president, adoption of a record \$11.6 million budget, approval of several resolutions, and election of new trustees for Baptist institutions.

J. Carroll Chadwick, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Center, and chairman of the 192-member Texas Baptist executive board was elected as convention president to succeed McCall.

Chadwick, who described himself as a "country preacher from a county seat town," declined to comment on the church-state separation issue during a press conference, saying he did not want to sway the committee. The pastor from deep East Texas also did not want to comment when asked if his church would admit a Negro for membership, but said he would never "refuse to minister to any man, including a Negro."

The record operating budget, a \$300,000 increase over the 1965 budget, allocates the biggest portion to world missions causes through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program--\$3.8 million. In addition, a 1966 goal of \$12 million was approved, with a \$322,108 "missionary enlargement" overplus section being divided equally between SBC causes, Texas Baptist education, and state human welfare causes.

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Resolutions adopted included pleas for the Texas legislature to pass a bill granting the right of "privileged communication" between ministers and those they counsel, to oppose liquor by the drink, legalized gambling, and private clubs where "open saloons" are run.

Two resolutions submitted from the convention floor were rewritten by the resolutions committee--one dealing with support for service men and U.S. foreign policy in Viet Nam, and another crediting "the hand of the Lord" in the financial collapse of a brewery in Fort Worth near the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The resolutions approved by the convention urged Baptists to pray for service men in Viet Nam and the nation's leaders, while the brewery resolution was tossed out except for a sentence included in the liquor by the drink resolution pledging opposition to traffic in alcoholic beverages.

Five recommendations from the convention's Christian Life Commission were adopted, one which urged Baptists to work towards solving the problems of racial ghettos.

A commission recommendation on church-state separation said the principle was "best not only for the vitality of the church's witness, but also for the good of the state which should be free of sectarian religious pressures." It said one of the "gravest threats" to church-state separation is the trend toward the "child benefit theory" in aiding parochial school children and using the churches as channels for government aid to the poor.

McCall and the pastor of his church, Flanders, expressed different views. The convention president said there has never been pure separation of church and state and that Baptists have often cooperated with the government to accomplish a purpose deemed more important at that particular time than the preservation of complete separation.

He went on to list instances supporting his case, arguing that the plight of Baptist institutions and the services they render are more important than strict adherence to out-of-date church-state views.

Flanders, pastor of First Baptist Church in Waco, urged church and state to walk together in carrying out shared objectives, while guarding against jeopardizing the autonomy of either.

He specifically suggested that the committee "draw up lines of demarcation wherein shared objectives stop and where our distinctive ministries begin...lines which will keep the church from becoming another dependent upon the state or a controlled instrument of the state."

The Dallas minister, Howard, however, flatly declared that the gospel of the kingdom of God unmistakably says "no, no" to such. "We cannot, we dare not, we shall not forsake our Christian, our Baptist position regardless of the consequences to our institutions by making the state tax others to pay for them," he said.

In his sermon, Howard also touched on race relations, saying that Baptists have "tried to divide the kingdom of God by a color line." He called race relations the greatest single scandal of the church in our time.

He also chided Baptists for a "separationist attitude" toward people of other faiths. "There is a rightful place for ecumenism," he said. "Baptists who despise confessing Christians of other names make a dreadful mistake. My Lord constantly reminds me...that he has sheep in other folds."

The convention ended with an address by James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

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Missouri Adopts Record
Budget, Hospital Expansion

(11-2-65)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention meeting here in annual session elected Willard L. Bright, pastor for 18 years of First Baptist Church, Lee's Summit, Mo., as its new president.

He succeeds W. T. Holland, Cape Girardeau.

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Other officers elected were Samuel E. Maddox, pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, vice president; Virgil L. Vaughn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Flat River, recording secretary; Russell L. Wren, Jefferson City insurance executive, treasurer.

The convention adopted a record Cooperative Program budget of \$3½ million, \$250,000 above last year's goal. Cooperative Program funds will be divided--35 per cent to Southern Baptist causes, 55 per cent to state causes, and 10 per cent to special denominational causes (protection plans, promotion and state paper).

A long range plan to develop Baptist Memorial Hospital, Kansas City, into a full medical center complex was unanimously approved. Development of the plan will begin immediately with financing to be decided later in discussions between the hospital and the convention's executive board. The \$5½ million hospital has just completed a new nine-story wing, "with occupancy already running at an exceptionally high rate," according to convention officials.

During the last twelve months, a convention committee of nine, made a study of the distribution of members on the executive board, institutional and agency boards, and commissions. The committee report, adopted unanimously by the convention, commended committees in using a wide range of leadership personnel. The report recommended that future committees dealing with these matters continue to consult each other.

The convention also approved the committee's recommendation that a member of the executive board be a member of only one other board, agency or commission.

The convention also approved a 65 per cent increase in the goal for its 1966 special state missions offering, bringing next year's goal to \$250,000.

Reports to the convention showed a gain of twenty-two churches and one new association during the past year. The churches now number 1845. The Iowa Southern Baptist Association, with nine churches and 16 chapels, is now a part of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Church membership reached a record 484,316, with 15,815 baptisms last year. Cooperative Program giving increased \$133,896 over last year, with a total of \$3,034,653. Another sharp rise--\$12½ million--occurred in value of church property. All other giving categories showed healthy increases.

Featured speakers included W. C. Fields, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Fred Moseley, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; George Thomason, professor at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City; D. B. Howard, Buies Creek, N.C.; Herman L. King, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; E. Luther Copeland, professor at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Floyd H. North, editor of The Commission; Carl E. Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

The 1966 convention will be held in the First Baptist Church, Springfield. Dan Bryson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Joplin, was chosen to preach the annual sermon.

The convention registered 1,026 messengers and 709 visitors for a total registration of 1,735.

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