

November 10, 1965

**Indiana Approves Budget,  
Christian Life Committee**

MUNCIE, Ind. (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana meeting here voted to establish a new Christian Life Committee to deal with moral issues, approved a record missions budget, and adopted a resolution reaffirming its position on religious liberty.

The resolution also pledged concern and prayer to other state Baptist conventions meeting during November as they "strive to adhere to the historic Baptist position on separation of church and state."

On a motion from the floor, the religious liberty resolution was amended to include a statement which recognized "the complexity of the problem facing our sister Baptist conventions in the financial burdens of their institutions and the pressures upon them to avail themselves of federal aid."

Baptist conventions in South Carolina, Georgia, and several other states were meeting the following week to decide if their institutions should accept federal grants and/or loans.

The Indiana resolution expressed opposition to pending legislation in the state which would provide public funds for transportation of students to and from private and parochial schools.

In two hard-hitting speeches to the convention, Glenn L. Archer of Washington, D. C., charged that some churches are "more obsessed with getting tax dollars than saving souls."

Archer, executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, chided the attitudes of some Protestants who "want to get in and get our share" of tax money.

Archer added that religious liberty is a birthright that every generation must secure for itself.

The new Christian Life Committee established by the convention was created on a motion by William Dragoo, pastor from Clarksville, Ind., who was later appointed chairman of the five-man committee. Purpose of the committee is to inform churches of the areas of social life where Christian interpretations are needed, and to report to the convention each year.

The 1966 budget of \$419,126 for Indiana Baptists includes a goal of \$250,000 through the Cooperative Program, an increase of \$54,000 over last year's goal. A total of \$66,500 will go to Southern Baptist Convention missions causes through the Cooperative Program.

For the first time, a fraternal messenger from the Indiana Baptist Convention brought greetings on behalf of the American Baptist Convention.

Re-elected as convention officers were President Virgil Clark, Kokomo, Ind.; Vice-President Raymond Sanderson, Evansville, Ind.; and Clerk Clarence Brock, Richmond, Ind.

The 1967 convention will be at Graceland Baptist Church, New Albany, Ind., Nov. 2-4. The 1966 convention had previously been scheduled at First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Nov. 3-5.

Seminary Foundation  
Okays Endowment Drive

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A \$1 million endowment fund campaign has been approved by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation directors.

Baptist laymen will be asked to make investment-gifts for the benefit of the seminary, said Ed Wood, president of the newly organized foundation and a New Orleans businessman.

Earnings from the endowment funds will provide missions and church work scholarships for students, faculty salary supplements, and limited grants for theological research.

Foundation directors are organizing the funds solicitation by states, regions, and in local support areas. They hope to raise the \$1 million by April 15, 1965.

Four thousand laymen will be asked to participate in the program, Wood said. Each donor will receive a certificate indicating his participation in theological education as a layman-investor.

The campaign is the seminary's first major effort to receive endowment funds, officials said.

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Indiana Baptists Dedicate  
New Baptist Student Center

11-10-65

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (BP)--The first Baptist student center in Indiana was dedicated here near the campus of Purdue University where more than 25,000 students are enrolled.

Except for the Baptist Building in Indianapolis, the new Baptist Student Union center is the first property purchased by the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Charles Roselle, secretary of Baptist student work in Tennessee, spoke at the dedication, praising Indiana Baptists for emphasizing student work so early in the convention's seven-year history.

Leon Partain, a graduate student at Purdue, is serving as a volunteer director of the university's Baptist Student Union.

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Explosion Destroys  
Nevada Baptist Church

11-10-65

CARSON CITY, Nev. (BP)--An explosion that reduced concrete blocks to dust and rubble completely destroyed the First Baptist Church of Carson City, leaving the 200 member congregation homeless.

No one was injured in the explosion, which came just moments after the pastor, C. R. Gibson had left to get a haircut.

Both the auditorium and an almost new two-story education building were demolished. The explosion was apparently caused by an accumulation of gas under the floor, perhaps ignited by a spark from an automatic heater.

The blast was so strong, Gibson said, that the building and everything in it was shredded. Steel chairs were twisted like corkscrews.

Pieces of the front door were found 200 yards away, and tracts from the church office were found on the grounds of the state capitol building five blocks away.

Gibson said they could not find a trace of his library, sermon notes, tape recorder or 16 mm movie projector.

The organ, also part of the pastor's personal property, completely disappeared. All that was left of a new piano was a few pieces of keyboard. Part of the church's adding machine was found inside a partially demolished building next door.

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All of the church's membership rolls, business records, and official minutes were destroyed.

Gibson says that he does not know what the church will do.

The property was insured for \$30,000, which is a little less than the value of the new educational building erected two years ago with volunteer labor. The insurance would not cover the amount of the auditorium.

The church was soon to build more educational space, and had already completed a \$50,000 bond campaign. They hoped to begin construction on the new building within a few weeks.

Several churches in Carson City have offered the use of their facilities in off-hours to the homeless church.

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SBC Missions Gifts  
May Hit \$22 Million

11-10-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention could possibly exceed its \$20 million budget this year by as much as \$2 1/4 million, a financial report from the convention's Executive Committee indicates.

Mission gifts through the convention's Cooperative Program for the month of October topped the \$2 million mark for the fourth time in convention history and the second time this year.

The missions gifts of \$2,011,247 during October bring the total for 1965 to \$18,172,083.

With two months left in the fiscal year, the convention lacks meeting its operating and capital needs budget by only \$1,663,517.

Once the budget is reached, all funds exceeding the budget will be divided between foreign missions and home missions, with two-thirds going to foreign missions.

If the present giving trend continues, about \$2 1/4 million should be available to foreign and home missions through the "advance" action of the budget, observed SBC Financial Planning Secretary John H. Williams of Nashville.

In addition to the \$18.1 million distributed to 19 convention boards, agencies and institutions for operating and capital needs, a total of \$16,770,045 has been contributed to designated missions causes in the denomination.

With undesignated Cooperative Program receipts and designated gifts combined, the total world missions gifts so far this year reached \$34,942,128.

Both designated and undesignated missions contributions are more than a million dollars respectively over the 1964 figures.

Designations for the month of October were \$278,696, compared to only \$188,794 for the month of October last, an increase of \$89,902.

Undesignated receipts for October were \$148,737 above the \$1.8 million given during October of last year.

Cooperative Program mission gifts are sent from the 33,500 Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation to state Baptist convention offices, which in turn send a percentage for Southern Baptist work on a national and world-wide scale. The funds are allocated according to a percentage scale adopted by the convention, except for designations which go only to the agency indicated by the giver.

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Alabama Musician Dies

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--E. Powell Lee, well known Southern Baptist evangelistic musician, died here at the age of 75.

The last ten years of his ministry before retirement was spent as director of music for the Division of Evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. A native of Forest Park, Ga., Lee was a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Funeral services were held here Oct. 31.