

November 19, 1965

**D. C. Baptists Urged
To Meet Human Need**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The District of Columbia Baptist Convention, in annual session here, approved a program of reorganization and adopted a resolution calling upon its pastors and church members to become actively involved in meeting human need.

Three new churches were received into membership in the convention, including one Negro congregation. The Upper Room Baptist Church, with a membership of 1000, is the second Negro congregation to become a member of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Shiloh Baptist Church was the first Negro church in the convention.

Charles B. McInnis, a Washington attorney, was elected convention president. John A. Holt, pastor of the Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md. was elected vice-president.

Under the new program of reorganization the convention will operate on the basis of 12 programs of work rather than on a departmental basis, and the executive secretary will be given enlarged authority and responsibility. The executive committee will be enlarged, with more representation from more churches, and it will have a more significant role in convention affairs. The executive board will be reduced in size. The plan of reorganization was under study by a special 15-member committee for three years.

In a broad resolution the convention encouraged its people "to enlarge their Christian witness in such concerns as fair housing, fair employment practices, public education, urban renewal, public programs ministering to children, school dropouts, and retraining the unemployed." It called upon ministers "to preach the truth in such a way that their people may do the truth on the frontiers of human need."

The resolution further (1) urged Baptist laymen in the business community and the legal profession to bring to bear a Christian conscience in their respective areas, (2) encouraged Christian witness to foreign students and embassy personnel, and (3) commended the practice of some of the churches in exchange of pulpits, musical, dramatic and educational programs between white and Negro congregations.

The convention adopted a total budget of \$504,000, with \$172,000 going to national and international interests. A total of \$96,800 will go through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention is dually aligned with the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Undesignated contributions are equally divided between the two national conventions.

Howard Rees, student secretary with the convention, was honored for his 30 years of service to Baptist students in the Washington area. He was presented with a gift of \$2,850 from the churches of the convention.

The 1966 convention dates are Nov. 21-22.

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Leon Macon, Editor of
Alabama Baptist, Dies

11-19-65

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Leon Macon, editor of the Alabama Baptist, died Nov. 15 at the West End Baptist Hospital here following a brief illness, during which he suffered a number of strokes.

Funeral services were conducted Nov. 17 by Edgar M. Arendall, pastor of the Dawson Memorial Baptist Church here. He was assisted by two long-time friends of Macon, John Barnew, pastor in Hattiesburg, Miss., and Brady Justice, a retired minister.

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Editor of the Alabama Baptist for 15 years, Macon was honored by his fellow editors in 1962 by electing him president of the Southern Baptist Press Association. He served as president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention from 1962 to 1964.

The 57-year-old editor suffered a light stroke the first part of October, but continued his work. This was followed by another stroke in mid-October and a severe stroke Nov. 10.

A native of Whatley, Ala., Macon was a graduate of Howard College (Baptist), Birmingham, (now Samford University) and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Howard College conferred a doctor of divinity degree on him in 1949.

Active in denominational affairs throughout his ministry, Macon served his fellow Baptists in many capacities--moderator of a number of associations, member of his state executive board, on the board of directors of the Radio and Television Commission, on the board of directors of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a member of the general committee for the Southern Baptist Encyclopedia.

Macon was ordained to the ministry by the Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., in 1932. His pastorates included churches in Mobile, Bay Minette, Athens, Atmore and Bessemer in Alabama, and one church in West Point, Mississippi.

In addition to his denominational honors Macon was listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

The Alabama editor is survived by his wife, the former Emily May Bodden, and three children, Mrs. Elwood Lillard, Houston, Tex., Mrs. Lane Nichols III, Birmingham, and Rodney Wayne, a student at Samford (Howard) University.

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SBC Home Mission
Staff Totals 2,514

11-19-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board here appointed two new home missionaries and elevated eight associate missionaries to missionary status, making the total number of home missionaries under appointment 2,514.

Included in the appointments were three new associate missionaries. All of the personnel involved serve with the board's language missions department. Most of the agency's missionaries are employed in cooperation with state mission boards.

Clyde Rockett, a native of Spearsville, La., was commissioned to serve Calvary Baptist Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He graduated from Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans. Prior to his appointment, he was a pastor in Campti, La.

Mrs. Rockett (Dorothy Lou) was appointed, along with her husband, to serve in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A native of Bascom, Fla., Mrs. Rockett was graduated from Judson College (Baptist) in Marion, Ala., and New Orleans Seminary.

The following four couples were changed from associate missionary status to missionary status: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Delaware, Mr. and Mrs. Reynaldo Gurule, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Ibarra, and Mr. and Mrs. Rafael Miranda.

Robert Delaware, appointed to serve among the Indians in Santa Fe, N. M., was born in Avery, Okla. He earned three degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He has been superintendent of the downtown rescue mission in Fort Worth, and pastor of the Fort Worth Indian Mission.

Mrs. Delaware (Stella Elizabeth Wapskineh), a native of Shawnee, Okla., was named, along with her husband, to serve in Santa Fe, N. M. She was graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University.

Reynaldo Gurule, a former student missionary of the board, was appointed to work with the Spanish-speaking in Espanola, N. M. A native of Belen, N. M., Gurule was graduated from Grand Canyon College (Baptist), Phoenix, Ariz., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Prior to his appointment, he was pastor of the First Spanish Baptist Church, Salinas, Calif.

Mrs. Gurule (Gregorita), a native of Horse Springs, N. M., was appointed, along with his husband, to serve in Espanola, N. M.

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Joshua E. Ibarra, a native Texan from Bryan, also graduated from two Texas schools--University of Corpus Christi (Baptist), Corpus Christi, and Southwestern Seminary. Before being appointed as missionary to the Spanish-speaking in Wichita Falls, Tex., Ibarra was pastor of the First Mexican Baptist Church there.

Mrs. Ibarra (Faustina Cicilia), appointed along with her husband to Wichita Falls, was born in Brownsville, Tex. She attended the University of Corpus Christi and Midwestern University, Wichita Falls.

Rafael Miranda, a former student missionary of the agency, was appointed as a language missionary to the Spanish-speaking of Fresno, Calif. He was graduated from California Baptist College, Riverside, and Golden Gate Seminary. He was born in El Paso, Tex.

Mrs. Miranda (Gloria Pedraza), a native of San Benito, Tex., attended California Baptist College. She was appointed, along with her husband, to serve in Fresno.

Those for associate missionary appointment are Jachin Chan of Mobile, Ala., to Clarksdale-Vicksburg, Miss., to serve among the Chinese; Chee Wu of San Francisco, Calif., to Cleveland, Miss., to work among the Chinese, and Mrs. Janette G. Richardson of Meridian, Miss., to work in a Spanish kindergarten in Donna, Tex.

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Georgia Baptists Reject
Federal Grants, Big Loan

11-19-65

AUGUSTA, Ga. (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention rejected federal grants for its institutions and in a surprise move slapped down Mercer University's request for a \$500,000 federal loan.

Rejection of grants followed a recommendation of the education commission after four public hearings had said "it is not wise in view of prevailing public opinion to approve acceptance of grants." The report was adopted without discussion.

The slap at Mercer came unexpectedly in the convention's executive committee report which recommended the \$500,000 loan for a science building. Objection was made on the claim such loans at 3 per cent interest involve an adjusted interest rate which requires a federal subsidy.

Both Mercer and the executive committee were unprepared for the argument. The result was defeat in a standing vote. An appeal for reconsideration at a subsequent session was also defeated, 438 to 344.

The convention gave quick approval to a request of Norman College, its junior college near Moultrie, to delete from its charter a limitation on enrollment to white students. This will permit signing of the civil rights compliance act. The five other Georgia colleges have complied and two have already integrated.

Georgia Baptists turned away from an appeal urging establishment of a special committee "to receive all complaints" concerning "alleged violations of historic Baptist teaching and conduct in our colleges."

Instead the convention said trustees and officials "have a right and a responsibility to receive such communications directly from the source of origin."

In adoption of resolutions, the convention endorsed legislation prohibiting nudist colonies, strengthening legislation concerning prosecution of drunken drivers, and set a goal of baptizing 37,000 converts next year.

The Cooperative Program budget for next year totals \$4,015,000, an increase of \$132,992. It maintains a 50-50 division with the Southern Baptist Convention after subtraction of \$487,800 for administration, promotion and the Annuity Board retirement plans.

The convention also adopted a \$10 million capital improvement program, \$5,475,000 to

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come from the Cooperative Program with the remainder to be raised as matching funds by institutions.

The Christian Life Commission in its report dealt primarily with marriage problems. It called for a three-day waiting period for licenses to curb "marriage mills" operating on the Florida and Tennessee borders.

Monroe F. Swilley Jr., pastor of Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon church in Atlanta, was re-elected to the customary second term as president. The convention meets next year in Columbus, Nov. 14-16.

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Arkansas Baptists Unseat
Church, Plan Aid Study

11-19-65

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--- The Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting here in a stormy session refused to seat messengers from the First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark., because the church practiced "alien immersion."

After the lengthy debate over the alien immersion issue, the convention later adopted a resolution calling for a committee study on the church-state separation problems involved in accepting federal aid for private institutions.

The resolution also reaffirmed "our traditional Baptist position on the separation of church and state," and urged all Baptist institutions and programs to respect this principle.

In several different votes, the convention took a slap at the Russellville church for accepting members from non-Baptist denominations without re-baptizing them.

First it voted down a recommendation from the convention's credentials committee asking that the two messengers from the church be seated.

Later the convention instructed a committee to make an investigation of practices in the church, and report back on whether or not the church would continue in fellowship with the convention.

A resolution was also adopted unanimously calling for every effort on the convention's part to "stay in communication" with the Russellville church and to "offer assistance to this great church to the end that eventually fellowship can be restored with out state convention."

The month before the convention, the Dardanelle-Russellville Baptist Association had voted to withdraw fellowship from the church during a meeting held at the disfellowshipped church.

Another resolution presented by Don Hook, a Little Rock minister, pointed out convention precedents set in 1937 when the convention objected to teachings of alien immersion and open communion in Baptist seminaries. Hook's resolution also said that the most prevelant practice of Baptist churches in Arkansas has been what is commonly called "close baptism" and "close communion."

Hook, pastor of Baptist Tabernacle in Little Rock, was later elected convention president.

In other action, the convention adopted a budget of \$2,171,653, which allocates \$706,016 to world-wide mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention.

An allocation of \$67,500 was adopted to the original budget proposal for two Baptist schools in Arkansas after trustees of Ouachita Baptist University decided they would not push for convention permission to accept federal aid.

In a speech to the convention, Ouachita president Ralph A. Phelps, who earlier this year had advocated accepting both federal grants and loans, made a guarded plea for more liberal thinking by Baptists on the federal aid issue.

He called for Baptists to discuss current controversial issues with good will and Christian love, not in the spirit of "burning a heretic at the stake."

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Phelps pleaded for Baptists not to give the impression that they are "anti-intellectual," that the government is a force bent on destroying the people, and that their educational programs are second-rate.

The convention also voted to authorize a committee to study the entire state Baptist program and work out plans for the next ten years relating to all departments of work and all institutions.

A plan for giving emphases in the churches was set up for 1967, and the executive board was empowered to sell the present Baptist Building here and finance a new building.

The 1966 convention was slated at Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, Nov. 7-9.

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North Carolina Baptists
Deplore Klu Klux Klan

11-19-65

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (BP)--The "perverted use of the Christian cross" by the Klu Klux Klan was deplored in a resolution passed unanimously by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in its 135th annual session here.

The resolution decried "the bigotry, prejudice, intolerance and ill-will which characterizes the Klan," and protested the Klan's "making the symbol of eternal love (the cross) into a symbol of contemporary hate."

The convention also praised editorials in its official publication, the Biblical Recorder, and Editor J. Marse Grant, for "courageous journalism in the area of human relations." Just before the convention, the Recorder had carried editorials against the Klan's desecration of the cross.

Other commendations went to W. R. Grigg, former head of the convention's department of inter-racial cooperation who now is doing similar work nation-wide with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and to Gov. Dan K. Moore for his interest in improved race relations and his continuance of the state's Good Neighbor Council.

The resolution was submitted by John Ryberg, pastor from Smithfield, N. C., and it was automatically referred to the convention's resolution committee. Only minor wording changes were made by the committee, however, and the vote by the convention was unanimous.

The Klu Klux Klan is reportedly very strong in North Carolina and its strength is concentrated in the eastern part of the state where Ryberg is pastor. Observers called the anti-Klan resolution "very significant," and believed it to be the first such statement from a major religious group in the South during recent years.

In other major actions, the convention deleted two sections from a "report" of its public affairs committee which looked with favor on accepting federal aid to higher education, and commended the Vatican Council II.

The vote was on the question of whether or not to receive the report "as information," since the committee's report contained no recommendations as such.

A \$5.4 million budget, largest in convention history, was adopted, and the convention elected Carl E. Bates of Charlotte as president.

Other officers include First Vice-president English Jones, president of Pembroke State College; Second Vice-president Mack M. Goss of Hendersonville, N. C.; and James M. Bulman of Spencer, parliamentarian.

The convention voted to continue the office of parliamentarian as an elected office rather than an appointed one as recommended, and to use Robert's Rules of Order as the parliamentary guide rather than Kerfoot's Parliamentary Law.

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Baptists Give \$150,000
For ABS 150 Anniversary

NEW YORK (BP)---Three Southern Baptist Convention agencies have approved contributions to the American Bible Society totaling \$150,000 next year during the organization's 150th anniversary.

The announcement was made during a meeting of the American Bible Society's Advisory Council meeting here.

Plans for the 150th anniversary during 1966---called "the year of the Bible"--were outlined during the meeting at the Commodore Hotel.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee, announced the anniversary gift in a telegram to American Bible Society leaders.

The gift includes \$100,000 from the SBC Foreign Mission Board; \$25,000 from the SBC Sunday School Board; and \$25,000 from the SBC Home Mission Board.

Routh said that the funds were given "in keeping with the programs of translation and distribution of the Word of God, and in appreciation for the significant contribution the American Bible Society has made toward these objectives in its 150 year history."

"We hope this additional \$150,000 in your anniversary year will do much to speed the translation into many languages not now covered and to make possible the distribution of the Word of God to some of the many millions who have never received even a portion of the scripture," Routh said in the telegram.

During a presentation on plans for the 150th anniversary, a Bible Society official called for churches from throughout the nation to place Bibles in public libraries and public schools as part of "the year of the Bible."

James Z. Nettinga of New York told the advisory council that the Supreme Court decision on Bible reading and prayer made it quite clear that the Bible can be studied in public schools as literature and history, and that no education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.

"Strange as it may seem, the Supreme Court decision may very well be the greatest boon to the cause of the Bible since the organization of the American Bible Society," Nettinga said.

He explained that the court decision has forced religious groups to find other avenues for distributing the scriptures, and that it is now popular to talk about the Bible.

Nettinga also called for enlistment of 10 million new Bible readers during the 150th anniversary year, and told the representatives of 81 different religious groups attending the meeting that the call for 10 million new Bible readers would be "just 10 million empty wishes" unless church workers get out and find these people.

In another major speech, Eugene A. Nida of the Bible Society said that the organization is now involved in more than 600 new translations and revisions of the scriptures, and that the society has translated the Bible into 1,232 different languages.

Financial reports presented to the advisory council revealed that Souther Baptists gave the society more financial support last year than any other religious groups, contributing \$190,334 to the ABS. Much of the support came from local Baptist congregations.