

November 23, 1965

**Kansas Convention Says
Racism "Affront to God"**

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)---The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists meeting here flatly expressed "inalterable opposition to segregation and racial prejudice in private or public housing, education, and job opportunities."

Kansas Baptists called on Southern Baptists to "give themselves to the decisive defeat of racism," because racism "is inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and an affront to God."

The five-point recommendations of the convention's Christian Life Committee also commended Baptists institutions and churches which have extended their ministries to people of all races, and expressed gratitude "for those individual Christians and churches who are involving themselves redemptively in community race relations."

They also pledged "to support laws designed to guarantee the legal rights of Negroes in our democracy and to go beyond those laws by practicing Christian love and reconciliation in all human relationships."

The recommendations duplicated almost verbatim the 1964 race relations recommendations of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission which were turned down by the SBC when it met in Atlantic City. Instead the convention then adopted a watered-down statement prepared by Baptists from deep south states.

In a separate resolution prepared by the convention's resolutions committee, Kansas Baptists pledged to "recommit ourselves to the principles and work of the Christian Life Commission of the SBC."

Other recommendations from the Kansas Christian Life Committee opposed legalized gambling efforts, condemned the evils of alcoholic beverages and pornographic literature, and opposed the use of public school buses for transportation of parochial school students.

In other action, the Kansas convention adopted a \$437,000 budget for 1966, including a Cooperative Program portion of \$252,000 which will send 17 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Elected president of the convention was Paul Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Haysville, Kan.

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**Louisiana Baptists
Oppose Federal Aid**

11-23-65

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP)---A resolution opposing acceptance of federal funds by Baptist institutions and agencies was adopted here by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The resolution called on Baptists to "recognize and accept our financial responsibility necessary for the survival of our institutions, and (to) give expression of this recognition through a more faithful stewardship of possessions."

Louisiana Baptists commended "those brethren of our fellowship who have boldly proclaimed with deep conviction our traditional Baptist position on this matter, and who have put principle above expediency."

The resolution also asked that Baptists be "diligent and unswerving" in their efforts to maintain separation of church and state by refusing to accept government funds.

Earlier, the outgoing convention president, Scott L. Tatum of Shreveport, had challenged

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the convention to stand for religious liberty.

Elected as new president was Ray Rust, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bastrop, La.

Other officers elected included Emory Wallace, pastor from DeRidder, La., as first vice-president; and Jerry Schmucker, pastor from Shreveport, second vice president.

A record \$3 million state Baptist Cooperative Program budget was adopted, allocating 31.4 per cent to world mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1966 convention will meet at the First Baptist Church of Pineville, La., Nov. 15-17.

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Baptist College Girls
Bolster Viet Nam Troops

11-23-65

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)---Coeds from Gardner-Webb (Baptist) College here have been writing to U.S. servicemen in Viet Nam in an effort to bolster their morale following demonstrations in the United States and draft-card burning episodes.

About a dozen or more girls who live in the HAPY(correct) dormitory at the Baptist owned junior college here have been writing to the servicemen since September.

Said one soldier in a letter: "We here in Viet Nam appreciate the fact that there are sincere Americans like you still around. I've received several clippings about the demonstrations in protest of our Viet Nam policy.

"Rest assured that the fighting men realize this misinformed group of theorists is a minority and doesn't reflect national opinion," the serviceman said.

Another soldier told one of the coeds: "I believe wholeheartedly in why I'm over here and have no use for anyone who disagrees with the U. S. action here...Be good, study hard and take advantage of your freedom."

The morale-boosting letters started flowing to Viet Nam when Kaye Billeter, a freshman from Westfield, N. J., saw a column in the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer. It was a plea for mail from 13 men of the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361 stationed in Viet Nam.

Miss Billeter got about 12 other girls interested, "because I know what it's like not to receive mail."

The first letters from Viet Nam were generally descriptions about the conditions there and personal information about the writer. But as anti-war demonstrations took to the streets in the United States, the letters became more serious.

Miss Billeter and the other girls said they will continue to write letters to the servicemen in Viet Nam in an effort to counter the bad impression made upon Americans there by other college students in the United States who prefer to take to the streets in demonstrations against the war.

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Oliver Named Baylor
Development Staffer

11-23-65

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University here has named William C. (Bill) Oliver, former owner of the Waco Nursery Co., as assistant director of development. He is a 1949 graduate of Baylor, a former radio announcer, and a former Methodist church educational director.

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Texas Baptist Association
To Admit Negro Churches

11-23-65

ODEM, Tex. (BP)---The Blanco Baptist Association meeting in this South Texas community adopted a resolution allowing Negro Baptist churches to petition the association for membership.

The association, composed of 21 churches and 13,000 members, instructed its superintendent of missions, P. D. Sullivan, to contact each Negro Baptist pastor in the area and invite them to attend and participate in all associational meetings.

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Negro churches would be considered for membership "according to their faith and practice and the traditions of the people called Baptists rather than by race or color," the resolution said.

Sullivan said there was no pressure from any source to pass the resolution, but merely an effort on the part of the churches to bring about better relationships and a strengthening of the Christian witness.

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Trustees Delay Chapel
Construction for Funds

11-23-65

BELTON, Tex. (BP)---The Mary Hardin-Baylor College board of trustees decided to delay construction of a proposed new chapel until they have 80 per cent of the cost in cash or pledges rather than reduce or alter the size of the chapel.

Earlier the board had rejected all bids submitted on the construction. The bids exceeded original estimated costs.

The committee planning the chapel had asked trustees to decide whether to alter the building, raise the funds necessary to make up the deficit, or start over with a new plan.

In other action, the board authorized President Arthur K. Tyson to explore the possibility of \$250,000 loan to begin early on constructing the new student center.

The board voted to name the proposed chapel "W. W. Walton Chapel." The First Baptist Church of Bartlett, Tex., administrator of the Walton estate, has contributed \$50,000 for the proposed chapel.

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE