

March 9, 1949

17,000 PEOPLE EXPECTED AT CONVENTION'S NIGHT SESSIONS

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.--(BP)--Night sessions of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here May 18-22 will be held in Taft Stadium, with a seating capacity of 17,000 persons. The day meetings will be in the municipal auditorium.

The tentative program of the Convention sessions was released this week by Dr. E. Hermond Westmoreland of Houston, Tex., chairman of the committee on order of business.

Decision to hold the night sessions at the stadium follows the precedent of last year's gigantic Sunday afternoon evangelistic session in Crump Stadium at Memphis. These open air sessions, designed to appeal to the masses of people in the host city, will be evangelistic and missionary.

Rev. Norman Cox, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Meridian, Miss., will preach the Convention sermon at the opening session Wednesday morning, May 18. Dr. Robert G. Lee, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., and president of the Convention, will bring the presidential address at the Wednesday night session.

A program by the Home Mission Board and an address by Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, are slated for the Thursday night session. Foreign missions will hold the spotlight on Friday night. Saturday night has been designated for emphasis on youth revivals, under direction of Dr. Frank H. Leavell, secretary of the Southern Baptist Department of Student Work at Nashville, Tenn.

The Convention's closing session, Sunday night, will be an evangelistic service under direction of Dr. C. E. Matthews, superintendent of evangelism, with Dr. Ellis A. Fuller, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., preaching.

Reports on all phases of the denomination's activities in this country and abroad will be heard during the Convention sessions. Decisions concerning the Convention's future program of theological education, the admission of more states to the Convention's present 21-state territory, and selection of a site for a western assembly are expected to highlight the business sessions.

C. E. Bryant
Baptist Press
Nashville, Tennessee

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DR. BOLTON ACCEPTS
FOUNDATION OFFICE

MIAMI, Fla.--(BP)--Dr. Charles H. Bolton, who was elected recently as executive secretary of Southern Baptist Foundation at Nashville, Tenn., has resigned his pastorate here to accept that position.

Dr. Bolton has been pastor of the Riverside Baptist Church here since July 1944. He plans to assume his duties in Nashville May 1.

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SOUTHERN BAPTISTS CALLED
TO DAY OF PRAYER, MAY 4

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. Robert G. Lee, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has asked the denomination's churches and homes to observe Wednesday, May 4, as a day for repentance and prayer preliminary to the May 18-22 meeting of the Convention at Oklahoma City.

The Convention president, who is pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, urged pastors to emphasize the day as necessary "in view of the needs and miseries of the world -- so varied and complex."

Dr. Lee also suggested that delegates plan to hold a special season of prayer just prior to and following each session of the Convention, and that group prayer services be held in hotel rooms following each night session of the mass meetings.

"I would suggest also," Dr. Lee continued, "that in journeying to the Convention there be prayer meetings held on the trains and planes enroute to Oklahoma City.

"And, for all those who come in cars, why not pause occasionally for a prayer in the car on the side of the road or as stops are made at gas stations? And as it takes only one to drive a car, let those who are not driving hold occasional prayer sessions in the car as they journey."

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