



June 20, 1966

SBC Final Registration  
Count Set at 10,414

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The final registration count of messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit put the exact total at 10,414, it was reported here.

North Carolina topped the list in attendance, with 1,035 messengers registered.

The final registration count was recorded by the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which tabulated and microfilmed each of the registration cards.

The official count ranked the Detroit convention as the 13th largest convention in the denomination's history. The 1965 convention in Dallas was the largest, with 16,053 messengers registered.

Second in registration to North Carolina was Texas, with 915 on the rolls. In total church membership, Texas is the largest of the 29 Baptist state conventions with 1.7 million members, and North Carolina is the second largest with 970,000.

Smallest representation came from Alaska, with one messenger, from Puerto Rico, with two, and Hawaii, with five.

Other states, with the number of registered messengers represented, included: South Carolina, 828; Tennessee, 812; Georgia, 729; Alabama, 698; Virginia, 623; Kentucky, 611; Mississippi, 515; Missouri, 503; Michigan, 465.

Florida, 365; Oklahoma, 324; Ohio, 319; Illinois, 307; Louisiana, 305; Maryland, 240; Arkansas, 218; Indiana, 159; California, 138; Colorado, 74; Kansas, 64; District of Columbia, 59; New Mexico, 39; Arizona, 34; Washington-Oregon, 16; Utah-Idaho, 11.

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Pucket Named Editor  
Of Maryland Baptist

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--R. Gene Puckett, associate editor of the Western Recorder weekly paper published by Kentucky Baptists, has been named editor of the Maryland Baptist, effective August 1.

Puckett was named to the post by the State Mission Board of the Maryland Baptist Convention, which owns the weekly Maryland Baptist tabloid newspaper.

Puckett has been with the Western Recorder since 1963, serving first as assistant editor and later promoted to associate editor. The paper is published in Middletown, Ky., near Louisville.

He is a former editor of another state Baptist paper, the Ohio Baptist Messenger, which he edited from 1958 until 1961 for Southern Baptists in Ohio.

Puckett succeeds Gainer Bryan Jr., who resigned in April to return to his native state, Georgia. At that time, Bryan was named editor-publisher of a weekly newspaper in Milledgeville, Ga.

A native of Kentucky, Puckett is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He attended two Kentucky Baptist schools, Campbellsville and Georgetown Colleges, before entering Western Kentucky in his senior year.

Ordained to the ministry in Kentucky, Puckett served as pastor of several churches in his native state before going to Ohio where he became pastor of the Hubert Avenue Baptist Church in Lancaster, Ohio.

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He served as both editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger and director of Baptist student work for Ohio Southern Baptists until 1961, when he became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dunedin, Fla.

Puckett, 33, is married to the former Robbie Lake of Mackville, Ky. They have two daughters.

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Japan Prime Minister  
Invites BWA to Tokyo

6/20/66

TOKYO (BP)--Japan's political elite rolled out the red carpet for Baptist leaders here and urged them to bring the Baptist World Alliance to Tokyo in 1970.

Prime Minister Eisaku Sato granted a 20-minute audience to H. Franklin Paschall, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Robert S. Denny, BWA associate secretary.

"We hope you will bring your Alliance meeting to Tokyo," Sato said. "We don't want to lose you to any other city."

Denny told the prime minister that the Alliance represented 27 million Baptists from more than 100 countries and expressed appreciation for the Baptists of Japan and their great contributions to the world Baptist movement.

Shuichi Matsumura, pastor of Tokyo's Tokiwadai Church and a BWA vice-president, told Sato, "The Baptists of Japan are extending every effort to try to bring the Alliance meeting to Tokyo in 1970."

Tokyo's metropolitan governor, Ryotaro Azuma, promised the group that "Tokyo will do her best to assist you in bringing your meeting here."

Both Prime Minister Sato and Governor Azuma promised invitations to the world Baptist group to hold their meeting in Tokyo in 1970. These will be carried to the BWA executive committee meeting in London by Matsumura in August.

Paschall told the governor that he had been deeply impressed with the work of the Baptists of Japan.

"They are doing a wonderful work in this land and have been most gracious to me and responsive to what I've tried to do," he said.

Paschall had just completed a three-day nationwide evangelistic conference at the Baptist camp ground at Amagi.

Mrs. Masa Nakayama, former Welfare Minister in the Ikeda Cabinet, urged the BWA to come to Tokyo and also to attend the world's fair in Osaka the same year.

Mrs. Nakayama, described by Baptist leaders as an outstanding Christian, made the arrangements for the audiences with the government leaders.

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Colorado Board Names  
Employees, Adopt Budget

6/20/66

DENVER (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Colorado elected two new staff employees, and gave preliminary approval to a record \$548,936 budget for 1967 during business sessions here.

The board voted to employ Carrol W. Smith, a Baptist pastor in Henderson, Tex., as director of the Southern Baptist chair of Bible at the University of Wyoming, and director of Baptist student work there.

Also employed was Robert Middleton Bowen, former pastor of a Denver church, as director of juvenile rehabilitation for the Denver Baptist Association. He will be jointly employed by the Denver association, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Colorado convention.

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The board voted to enter a church community week-day ministry in metropolitan Denver, and mapped plans for employing a staff member to handle the job. It, too, will be in cooperation with the Denver Association, the Home Mission Board, and the state convention.

The proposed \$548,936 budget for 1967 will be submitted to the annual state convention for approval when it meets in Rapid City, S. D., this fall.

The proposed budget would be an increase of \$48,936 over the 1966 budget, and would include a state-wide goal of \$292,912. The remainder of the budget would come mostly in support from the SBC Home Mission Board and the SBC Sunday School Board. Of the state-wide goal, 17 percent or \$49,777 would be provided to SBC world missions causes.

The board also voted to look with favor upon Baptist churches in Western Nebraska affiliating with the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists. Churches in Eastern Nebraska are currently affiliated with Kansas Southern Baptists, while those in Western Nebraska are affiliated with the Colorado convention.

The board elected its first women members to the board, naming Mrs. James Fish of Colorado Springs and Mrs. Glen Field of Littleton, Col., as members.

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Texas Baptist Board  
Names Two Employees

6/20/66

DALLAS (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has approved two personnel recommendations, three loan requests, and appropriation of more than \$30,000 to help in the preservation of a historical Baptist landmark.

E. O. Hartwell, pastor-builder for Texas Baptists for more than 20 years was also given special recognition at the board's quarterly meeting here.

Bill D. King, minister of elementary education at First Baptist Church in Abilene, Tex., was named to fill a vacancy in the state Training Union department as associate secretary in charge of children's work. He will begin work in his new position July 11.

Daniel Aleman was named to fill a vacancy in the convention's language missions department. He is presently pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana in San Angelo, Tex. He will assume his new duties in Dallas July 1.

Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen, Tex., received approval to negotiate a loan of up to \$1,340,000 for improvements and Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen received permission to negotiate a loan not to exceed \$65,000 for interim financing in order to proceed with the erection of a Student Union Building.

San Marcos Baptist Academy in San Marcos, Tex., was also given authority to negotiate a loan of \$30,000 to build a home for its president.

Approval was given for construction of a 3,200 square foot addition to Independence Baptist Church at Independence, Tex. The construction on the building is expected to cost about \$20,000. An additional \$4,000 was approved for improvements to a historical park near the church.

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Baylor Gets Clinical  
Research Center Grant

6/20/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Tex., has been awarded a grant of \$28,398 under the General Clinical Research Center program of the National Institutes of Health, according to announcement from the Public Health Service here.

Baylor University is owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The award is one of eight grants totaling \$2,954,297, to provide new general clinical research centers and to expand or improve existing centers.

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The centers are essentially small research hospitals. They are usually within a larger hospital complex.

The General Clinical Research Center provides a research unit in which scientists from many biomedical disciplines can conduct exacting clinical studies on selected patients.

Grants are for renovation costs, equipment, laboratories, diet kitchens, core personnel, operating costs, including supplies for research studies, and hospitalization costs.

The grant to Baylor Medicine College is for a two-bed addition to a six-bed general clinical research center in the Texas Children's Hospital. It will also be used for acquiring additional equipment for the core laboratory.

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Chinese Seminary Prof  
Opposes Red U.N. Seat

6/20/66

FORT WORTH (BP)--A professor at Taiwan Baptist Seminary in Taipei, Taiwan (Formosa) told students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here he strongly opposed admission of Red China to the United Nations.

Professor Leon Chow made the statement when he spoke at the seminary's chapel services and answered questions from interested students on the Republic of China and its place in the world today.

Chow argued that the principles of the United Nations itself would be violated if Communist China were to be admitted.

He explained that about five per cent of the 600 million people in Red China are Communists, and argued that about 95 per cent are therefore not represented by the present government.

Chow said the hope of the people in the Republic of China is to return to the mainland and once again unite the country of China.

Every Sunday, Chow preaches in the church where Republic of China President Chiang Kai-shek is a member.

"President Chiang Kai-shek is a deeply religious man," said Chow, adding that any minister would be happy to have such a man in his congregation.

According to Chow, President Chiang Kai-shek observes three devotional periods a day, and is a regular church member.

Chow was in Texas on a speaking tour traveling with a former Southern Baptist missionary to China, Charles Culpepper.

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Baptist Editor Hits At  
Special Theology Fund

6/20/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist editor here has strongly criticized the formation of a laymen's foundation for conservative theology and the designation of a Southern Baptist seminary to receive the foundation's scholarships.

James O. Duncan, editor of Capital Baptist, weekly paper of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, said in an editorial that the move raised serious questions about Southern Baptists and theological education.

The "Evangelical Christian Education Foundation" was established recently by a group of Texas and Gulf Coast area businessmen to support conservative theological education as opposed to "liberal theology now being taught in the United States."

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The group set a goal of \$500,000 for scholarship funds for students who accept their definition of conservative theology. It placed the funds with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La. H. Leo Eddleman is president of the seminary.

Duncan expressed appreciation for laymen taking an interest in theological education but questioned laymen "organizing into groups with the express purpose of promoting their own point of view."

Southern Baptists should know who these men are, "their real theological position--their political involvements," he said.

The Baptist editor struck out at branding one Southern Baptist seminary as a "conservative" seminary. Acceptance of the money by the New Orleans trustees "on the basis that it seems to be offered" would be "a slap at the rest of the seminaries," he charged.

Further, he questioned if the foundation could provide so much money "how long will it be before the administration of the seminary has to clear the faculty appointments with this group in order to get their money."

In his editorial, Duncan referred to a news release about the foundation which stated that "H. Leo Eddleman, president of the New Orleans Seminary, spoke at the group's meeting" in Houston. He questioned whether the funds were solicited by the seminary, and whether any commitments were made to get the group's financial support.

The editor also questioned "any student's sincere search for truth if before he studies his theology he accepts a 'conservative' theological position." Likewise, he questioned encouraging students to attend the seminary who have "pre-determined" their theological conclusions by accepting the point of view of a group of laymen.

"Southern Baptist seminaries have all maintained a fairly good balance of theological points of view...now is not the time for theological distinctions to be forced on our seminaries," Duncan said.