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November 10, 1966

**Arkansas Baptists Reaffirm
Vote on Releasing Hospital**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted down efforts to rescind its earlier action to release ownership of the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock so that the hospital could accept federal grants.

The convention also tabled a motion to re-admit to the convention the First Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., which last year was ousted from the convention because of its practices on "alien immersion."

On both issues, the convention refused to change its earlier decisions.

The vote on releasing ownership of the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center had carried by a 488-327 margin only two days earlier in the opening business session of the convention.

Efforts to rescind the action were sparked by Charles Taylor, a Baptist pastor in Harrison, Ark., who charged that 222 convention messengers "were denied the privilege of voting." Most of the messengers had left the convention during a speech by a denominational leader, and had not returned in time to vote.

Taylor's motion was tabled because time for the business session had ended. But the issue arose again during the convention's last business session when additional motions to rescind the action were made by Amos Greer of Pinebluff, Ark., and Ralph Kettle of Blytheville, Ark.

Convention president Don Hook of Little Rock, earlier re-elected to a second term as president, appealed to the convention not to vote to rescind the action, saying it would be taking undue advantage of the messengers who had voted earlier and were not present at the last convention business session. Attendance at the later session was about one-third less than the first session.

Hook also ruled out of order a motion that the convention schedule a special called convention to deal with the issue of disowning the hospital so it could accept federal grant

In a standing vote, the convention voted 272 to 197 against rescinding the earlier convention vote, and overwhelmingly reaffirmed its earlier action in another voice vote.

The proposal to re-admit the First Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., to the convention was made by John McClanahan who argued that "we need to go the second mile" on the issue, and that the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Detroit last June had ruled out of order a proposal that the church be denied seats at the convention.

The Arkansas Convention, however, approved in a voice vote a motion to table the question indefinitely because it was thoroughly debated last year and that nothing had changed during the intervening time.

Last year, the convention voted down a recommendation that messengers from the Russellville Church be seated, and approved a resolution which opposed "alien immersion and open communion."

The Dardanelle-Russellville Baptist Association had earlier voted to withdraw fellowship from the church, primarily because it had accepted church members from non-Baptist denomination's without re-baptizing them.

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History Made: Historical
Society Misplaces Minutes

11/10/66

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Historical Society of Indiana is dedicated for the preservation of the historical date.

At their annual meeting here during the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, the secretary did not read the minutes of the 1965 meeting.

She admitted that the minutes had been misplaced.

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Georgia Children's Home
Sells Land to Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Children's Home has sold its 81-acre campus in Hapeville, Ga., to the city of Atlanta for \$3½ million in what is believed to be the largest real estate transaction in the history of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The property will eventually be used for expansion for runways at the Atlanta airport. The Children's Home will vacate the property by the summer of 1968.

The home has already purchased about 400 acres of land in South Fulton County near Palmetto, Ga., upon which to erect a completely new campus.

John C. Warr, general manager of the home--which also has branches at Meansville and Baxley--said the money from the sale of the Hapeville campus will allow the new Palmetto campus to be erected completely free of debt.

"We expect the Palmetto campus which will include about 20 major buildings, to cost approximately \$2 3/4 million," Warr said. "Any excess from the Hapeville sale will be used for needed improvements at our Meansville and Baxley campuses."

Atlanta officials paid the home \$500,000 when the sale was finalized and will pay the remaining \$3 million at regular intervals with final payment due by the time the campus is vacated in the summer of 1968. Warr said work at the new Palmetto campus is progressing "nicely and on schedule."

The Georgia Baptist Convention approved the move last year and the First National Bank of Atlanta had agreed to lend up to \$2½ million as needed for construction of the new campus.

The Hapeville campus has been used since 1902. Several Atlanta locations housed the home from its inception in 1872 until 1902.

About 220 children are at the Hapeville campus; about 195 are at the Baxley branch and about 55 at the Meansville campus. The Palmetto campus will care for about 250.

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Missionary Named To Staff
Of Sunday School Board

11/10/66

NASHVILLE (BP)--Vance Vernon, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil since 1946, recently became a consultant in the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board here.

In his new work, Vernon has special responsibility in the area of church long-range planning.

A native of Alabama, Vernon holds a bachelor of arts degree from Samford University (Baptist), Birmingham, Ala. He received bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

From 1945-46 Vernon was pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Mitchell, Ind.

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Gifts To University
Near \$2 Million Goal

11/10/66

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--The Hardin-Simmons University \$2 million endowment campaign has entered its final stage with the announcement of more than \$200,000 received in new gifts.

Lee Hemphill, vice president for development and promotion, told trustees and board of development members that the recent gifts pushed to approximately \$375,000 the amount raised in the second phase of the drive.

The Baptist school is within \$375,000 of the \$750,000 necessary on the second phase of the drive to receive a "matching gift" of Carr P. Collins Sr., of Dallas, a prominent Baptist layman.

Collins offered Hardin-Simmons \$500,000 if the school would raise \$1.5 million. The first \$750,000 and the matching gift of \$250,000 was reached on Jan. 23 of this year.

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Candidate Apologizes
To Georgia Baptists

ATLANTA (BP)--Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Howard (Bo) Callaway issued a public apology for failing to reply to a questionnaire on moral issues given to him and to democratic candidate Lester Maddox by The Christian Index.

Maddox answered the questionnaire and it was published in the issue of the Index which appeared the week before the election.

Callaway, whose aides repeatedly told the Index he was too busy campaigning to give sufficient thought to the questions, failed to meet the Index deadline.

(Neither Maddox nor Callaway polled a majority of votes, due to a strong write-in vote for former Georgia Governor Ellis Arnall. Selection of a governor now is up to the legislature and/or the courts.)

Some Baptist observers guessed that failure to answer the questionnaire could have cost Callaway as many as 25,000 votes.

The Index Associate Editor Jack U. Harwell said he personally delivered the 10-point questionnaire on Oct. 6 to both campaign headquarters to avoid any mixup.

The Index reported that "repeated conversations were held" with Callaway's top aides between Oct. 6 and the final deadline of Oct. 26 for the pre-election issue of the Index.

In a telegram to the Index on Nov. 4, Callaway said many of his "friends in the Baptist community" had expressed disappointment in his failure to deal with the questionnaire.

"Certainly no one is more disappointed than I, coming from a family that has produced over 31 Baptist ministers, among them my own great grandfather," the telegram read.

"I want to apologize to those whom I may have offended by this unavoidable omission," it said. "Please let me assure my Baptist friends that I stand now as I always have for preservation of the highest morals in our state and among our people."

Callaway also apologized on television for not filling in the form, which dealt with such issues as gambling, pornography, church-state relations, and narcotics.

In reply, Harwell said, "We feel the Index did all within reason to afford Mr. Callaway the same opportunity to reply which Mr. Maddox had. Since Mr. Maddox did answer the questionnaire, we felt obligated to him to carry his reply."

"The stated positions of two gubernatorial candidates on the moral issues posed in the questionnaire were, we felt, vital to thinking Georgia Baptists as they sought God's will in the Nov. 8 election."

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Williams Named Alabama
Baptist Evangelism Head

11/10/66

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Otis C. Williams, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Greenville, Ala., for the past 17 years, has been named secretary of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Williams will assume the position effective Dec. 1, succeeding Roland Jarrard who resigned recently to become pastor of Ruhama Baptist Church in Birmingham.

A native of Alabama, Williams is a graduate of Samford University (formerly Howard College) in Birmingham, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was pastor of Langdale Baptist Church, Langdale, Ala., before becoming pastor of the Greenville Church in 1949.

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Georgia Evangelism
Associate Elected

11/10/66

ATLANTA (BP)--Harold L. Sangster, pastor of the Garden City Baptist church, Savannah, Ga. has been elected associate secretary of the department of evangelism of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

A native of Vienna, Ga., Sangster is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has served as pastor of churches at Monticello, Bostwick, Dawson, Lakeland, and as an associate pastor in Dalton, Ga.

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Seminary Professor's
Wife Dies of Cancer

HOUSTON (BP)--Mrs. Everett V. Reneer, whose husband is professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., died of cancer here at the M.D. Anderson Hospital.

A native of Biloxi, Miss., funeral services were held for Mrs. Reneer at Biloxi, on Nov. 6, with special memorial services conducted at Midwestern Seminary on Nov. 9.

A memorial fund has been established at the Midwestern Seminary business office in honor of Mrs. Reneer.

Reneer and his daughter, Janice, and two sons, Russell and Bernell, reside at 3720 East 46th Street North, Kansas City.

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SBC Missions Gifts
Top \$38 Million

11/10/66

NASHVILLE (BP)--Missions contributions to Southern Baptist Convention causes topped the \$38 million mark in October, exceeding gifts for the same period of 1965 by more than \$3 million.

During the first 10 months of 1966, contributions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget totaled \$19,459,264, an increase of more than \$1.2 million over Cooperative Program gifts during the same period in 1965.

An additional \$13,620,262 has been given to designated Southern Baptist missions causes so far during 1966, an increase of \$1.8 million over designated contributions for 1965.

A monthly financial report from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee set the total for SBC missions gifts--both undesignated and designated--at \$38,079,527, an increase of \$3,137,398 or 8.98 per cent over total missions contributions for the same period in 1965.

Biggest portion of the \$38 million has gone to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to finance SBC foreign mission efforts in about 60 countries. The board has received \$23.5 million in designated and undesignated contributions so far during 1966.

The SBC Home Mission Board has received an additional \$7.6 million during the first ten months. Twenty other Southern Baptist agencies, institutions, and causes have received financial support from the Cooperative Program, and from designated contributions.

The total gifts reported by the SBC Executive Committee, which channels the funds to the appropriate organizations, include only contributions for nation-wide and world-wide causes, and do not include amounts given to support local and state-wide missions efforts by Baptists.

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Helicopter Crash Gives
Baptists Minor Injuries

11/10/66

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A helicopter stalled at takeoff near New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, slightly injuring the president of the seminary's board of development, Wallace E. Johnson of Memphis, Tenn., and his pastor, James Eaves of Memphis.

Johnson, president of Holiday Inns of America, Inc., and Eaves, pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church, sustained only minor cuts and bruises, and were not hospitalized.

As the helicopter attempted to take off, it stalled and crashed through utility wires and onto a residential street one block east of the seminary campus.

The helicopter had barely reached tree-top level when it stalled. It apparently had difficulty in getting off the ground.

A seminary spokesman said it was a miracle that they lived through the crash, especially with only minor cuts and scratches.

Johnson and Eaves were on their way to the New Orleans International Airport to catch a plane to Memphis.

They were treated at the scene of the accident and sent on their way to Memphis.

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