

June 16, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

McCLELLAN NAMED PUBLICITY DIRECTOR OF S.B.C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Rev. Albert McClellan, editor of the Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma state Baptist paper, was elected director of publicity of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at its annual meeting here June 15-16.

In other actions, the Executive Committee:

Changed the date of the 1950 Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago to May 9-12 from the previously announced May 10-14.

Adopted financial and promotional plans for implementing the Advance Program approved by the Convention in Oklahoma City last month.

Named a committee to study the matter of 1,668,000 non-resident Baptists on S.B.C. church rolls.

Mr. McClellan, if he accepts the position, will succeed C. E. Bryant, who resigned to do similar work at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

The Oklahoman is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waurika, Okla., before going to the editorship of the Messenger in October 1945.

He is a native of Texas and attended Baylor University before entering O.B.U. for the continuation of his college work. He was married in 1939 to Miss Mabel Ruth Helm of Poplar Bluff, Mo., and they have two children, both boys.

Convention Date

Date of the 1950 session was changed on recommendation of a special committee headed by Rev. R. Lofton Hudson of Shawnee, Okla., who pointed out that May 14 falls on Mother's Day, a time when most pastors desire to be in their own churches. A survey by Porter Routh, statistician, has indicated that only 12 per cent of the pastors favored the May 10-14 date.

The Convention will open on Tuesday night rather than on Wednesday morning as customarily, according to the action. The annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union will be held Sunday, May 7, through Tuesday, as heretofore, with the Tuesday night hour being a joint session with the full Convention. The Convention will close its sessions Friday night.

Sessions will be held in the Coliseum, seating 9,600 people.

Non-Resident Members

George B. Fraser, a Washington, D. C., attorney, called attention of the Promotion Committee to statistics in the 1949 Southern Baptist Handbook to the effect

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that almost 26 per cent of Southern Baptist church membership is non-resident. The great majority of these non-resident members, now removed from old friends and old church relationships, are completely unenlisted in religious work, he declared.

Named to the committee to study the matter and report back to the Executive Committee's semi-annual meeting next December were Dr. Paul Wheeler of Columbia, S. C., chairman, Mrs. Frank Burney of Waynesboro, Ga., and Dr. Norman Cox of Meridian, Miss.

Various promotional aids including tracts, posters, and a 75-frame film strip were approved looking to achievement of Convention-adopted goals of spiritual revival and a \$10,000,000 Cooperative Program.

Attention was called to achievements in promotion and publicity during the past year under the direction of Dr. Merrill D. Moore and C. E. Bryant.

Officers Elected

Mr. Fraser was re-elected to a third term as president of the Executive Committee. Other officers are Rev. Howard M. Reaves of Mobile, Ala., vice-president; Porter Routh of Nashville, secretary; Dr. Duke K. McCall of Nashville, executive-secretary and treasurer; Dr. Moore, director of promotion and associate secretary; and Mr. McClellan, director of publicity.

Sub-committees were named as follows:

Opdyke Committee: Chester L. Quarles, Alabama, chairman; I. E. Lee, Illinois; Phillip C. McGahey, New Mexico; and R. H. Tharp, Arizona.

Convention Arrangements: R. Lofton Hudson, Oklahoma, chairman; H. C. Chiles, Kentucky; and Porter Routh, Tennessee.

Finance Committee: R. Paul Caudill, Tennessee, chairman; H. G. Bennett, Oklahoma; W. Boyd Hunt, Texas; Leon M. Latimer, South Carolina; and Louie D. Newton, Georgia.

Administrative Committee: Frank A. Hooper, Jr., Georgia, chairman; Ralph P. Baylor, Maryland; E. L. Compere, Arkansas; J. A. Ellis, Texas; Walter B. Feagins, Florida; A. J. Moncrief, Jr., Missouri; R. Houston Smith, Louisiana; J. W. Storer, Oklahoma; and H. W. Tiffany, Virginia.

Promotion Committee: C. C. Warren, North Carolina, chairman; Mrs. Frank S. Burney, Georgia; Norman W. Cox, Mississippi; Isam B. Hodges, California; R. G. Lee, Tennessee; Mrs. George R. Martin, Virginia; J. Norris Palmer, Louisiana; Howard M. Reaves, Alabama; and Paul Wheeler, South Carolina.

ABC WILL CARRY YEAR ROUND
SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO HOUR

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(EP)--The Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has contracted with the American Broadcasting Company for year-round broadcast of a Sunday afternoon religious half-hour, beginning October 2.

Dr. Sam F. Lowe, director, made the announcement following the annual meeting of the Commission.

One hundred thirty one ABC stations in the South, Southwest, and Pacific coast area will be used on the Baptist broadcast, Dr. Lowe said. Other supplementary stations will be added to give complete coverage of the 23-state area now comprising the S.B.C. territory. Broadcasts will originate at the Baptist Radio Center in Atlanta.

Dr. Lowe said that Dr. Robert G. Lee of Memphis, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be speaker the first three months of the broadcast.

Southern Baptists heretofore have been cooperating in a Southern religious radio conference in which Baptists and other member denominations alternate on a half-hour Sunday morning period on an independent network -- each denomination having the program for three months at a time.

The Commission elected the Rev. Ramsey Pollard of Knoxville, Tenn., as its chairman. The Rev. Allen W. Graves of Charlottesville, Va., was named vice-chairman, and Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., of Greenville, S. C., secretary.

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GERMAN BAPTISTS GRATEFUL
FOR HELP TO SEMINARY

HAMBURG, Germany--(BP)--A gift of \$30,000 from Southern Baptists has made possible continuation of the Baptist Theological Seminary operated by German Baptists.

Dr. Hans Luckey, president of the seminary, announced the gift and addressed a letter of gratitude to Southern Baptists.

"You can hardly imagine the heavy load which was taken from our hearts," Dr. Luckey wrote following receipt of a message from Dr. Jacob Meister, now in the United States, that the gift was forthcoming.

"It seemed necessary for us to stop our work though young men are wanted very much for service in the Kingdom of our Lord, and though the number of students willing to begin their theological training is greater than before. It would have been quite unreasonable and not a proof of belief to shut our seminary," Dr. Luckey said.

"But now God has done a marvelous help by moving your hearts and hands."

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**BAPTISTS AGAIN REFUSE
CHURCH UNION INVITATION**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention will not participate in the meeting of the Planning Committee for a Conference on Church Union, scheduled for Princeton, N. J., next December 14-16.

An invitation that Southern Baptists appoint three to seven official delegates to the conference was addressed to Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and signed by Douglas Horton and Mark A. Dawber of New York.

"The next annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held in May, 1950, after your proposed meeting this fall," Dr. McCall replied. "I am therefore assuming the responsibility of replying to your letter on the basis of previously expressed opinions and actions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I am quite certain the Southern Baptist Convention would decline your invitation to participate in a Conference on Church Union," Dr. McCall declared. "As indicated in the statement attached to your letter, we would agree with you concerning 'the challenge of secularism, materialism, and sin.' We do not agree that church union provides the answer to this challenge.

"As Baptists we believe in the freedom of the conscience of the individual to arrive at his religious convictions from a study of the Bible under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We recognize that this freedom has produced varying interpretations and differences of opinion. We believe that the cause of Christ will be served best by each individual remaining absolutely true to his conviction concerning the teaching of the Word of God.

"It is further our conviction," Dr. McCall continued, "that any effort at church union must either dilute these convictions to produce a common denominator of faith for all who enter the union, or the union must ignore these differences and pretend a unity which is not a reality."

Dr. McCall concluded: "I would pray that God might guide you and all others who might participate in this conference that the Divine Will may dominate all decisions."