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**Suit Filed To Nullify
Arkansas Convention Vote**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Three Arkansas Baptist pastors have filed suit in Pulaski Chancery Court here in an attempt to nullify the vote of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to release ownership of the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center here so it can accept federal grants.

In filing the suit, the plaintiffs claimed that the convention did not vote to amend its constitution to provide for transfer of the hospital property to a private association, and thus the convention action is null and void.

The formal complaint asserts that the plaintiffs are pastors of Baptist churches and were members voting at the meeting of the state convention in Little Rock, Nov. 7.

The plaintiffs "bring this action on behalf of themselves and all other members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention similarly situated," the complaint stated.

Named as defendants in the suit are the convention president, Don Hook of Little Rock, vice president Thomas Hinson of West Memphis, and Executive Secretary S. A. Whitlow of Little Rock; along with three trustees of the Medical Center, W. M. Freeze Jr., of Jonesboro, James A. Linder and R. A. Lile of Little Rock, plus hospital administrator John Gilbreath of Little Rock.

The defendants have 20 days in which to reply to the charges before the court sets a hearing for the case.

Listed as the plaintiffs were J. T. Summers, pastor of Denison Street Baptist Church in Little Rock; R. F. Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Conway, Ark.; and Ralph Cadwell, pastor of Cole Ridge Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark.

The plaintiffs and their attorneys, the firm of Howell, Prize and Worsham, decried the suit as "an action for declaratory judgement and for injunctive release" involving property rights of the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

They claim that the convention action violates section 4, article 7 of the constitution, which states: "All trusteeships shall render to the convention at each annual session complete and detailed reports of all transactions and business and any other activities for the year, and shall be subject to the direction of the convention in all matters pertaining to the administering to the affairs of the institution with which their trusteeship is concerned."

Attorneys for the hospital studied legal aspects of the proposal before it was brought to the convention, according to the hospital administrator, Gilbreath.

Several staff members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention said informally that they felt they did not feel the suit had much chance of nullifying the convention action.

During the convention, two attempts were made by messengers to rescind the action, but the first attempt was tabled, and the second was defeated by a vote of 272 to 197. Vote on the initial action to release ownership of the hospital was 601 to 435.

In an editorial in the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Editor Erwin L. McDonald expressed regret that the suit had been filed, and that "fellow Christians cannot settle their grievances among themselves."

"Let us pray that it will move as swiftly, as fair and impartial hearings can be held and that the medical center issue is soon settled," the editorial said. "Long drawn-out court actions could not but be hurtful to all concerned."

State Conventions Approve New Annuity Board Program

DALLAS (BP)--The new Southern Baptist Protection Program proposed by the SBC Annuity Board has been approved by all 29 state Baptist conventions during their annual meetings just completed.

The Alaska Baptist Convention meeting in August was the first to approve it, while the District of Columbia, which ended its session two days before Thanksgiving, made the final endorsement.

R. Alton Reed, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board here, called the actions by the state conventions "a continuation of a truly history-making program which will begin early in 1967."

He said the conventions' actions allow the Annuity Board to accomplish three major things: offer substantial increases in benefits to a member-minister, church or denominational employee in the former Southern Baptist Protection Plan, plus three new ones at no extra cost for basic coverage; simplify participation for the member by requiring only one certificate regardless of where he may serve; and strengthen the program actuarially by uniting all resources of the plans, and by grouping together all salaried denominational employees to determine a more accurate prediction of future mortality.

"The new program is similar in name to the plans a member may now have. But the similarity ends there when most of the benefits are compared," Reed said.

The new program has three separate parts: Plan A (Southern Baptist Protection Plan) as the basic plan; and Plan B (Age Security Plan) and Plan C (Variable Benefit Plan) as supplemental plans. These will be incorporated in one certificate instead of separate ones as previously required.

"Under the new program," Reed said, "disability benefits will be the same amount a member would receive if he had continued to participate until he retired at age 65." Previously, \$900 a year was the maximum amount a member could receive.

"Widow benefits will be the full 40 per cent of what the normal retirement benefit at age 65 will be," he said. Formerly, widow benefits were on a step-up formula, which took six years to reach the maximum.

"This benefit, like all benefits in the program, begin after the initial year of participation," he added.

The new benefits include a child's benefit, educational benefit and dependent parent benefit.

Reed said up to four unmarried, dependent children under age 18 will be eligible for the child's benefit. The amount for each child will be 15 per cent of what the normal retirement benefit at age 65 will be.

Reed indicated that the educational benefit calls for a maximum of \$2,400 for each unmarried, dependent child, payable at the rate of \$600 a year for the initial four years of full-time study immediately beyond high school.

This benefit, like the child's benefit, is payable during the time a member is retired, disabled or upon his death.

"The one exception is in the child's benefit. Under early retirement, the child's benefit would be 15 per cent of the accrued credits a member earned before his benefit was figured," Reed said.

The third new benefit is the dependent parent, payable if no widow survives a member. "This benefit will be the same amount as the widow benefit and will be paid to a qualified dependent parent of the member only," Reed said.

Reed stated that dues costs in the basic part do not increase. However, individual churches will be encouraged to put a minimum amount up to ten per cent of the member's salary into the program.

Dues payments on the initial \$4,000 of the salary would go into the basic part with the remaining dues assigned to either or both of the supplemental plans, as the member may select.

Reed said, "if a member's salary is less than \$4,000 a year, his church may pay dues on \$4,000, the maximum allowed in the basic part for which he is eligible.

Reed concluded that no member would ever lose his benefit even if he left active denominational service.

"His account would simply be 'frozen'. If he re-entered active service, the only thing he would have to do is have his church resume paying dues for him," Reed said.

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Baptist Pastor Shot,
Crippled, By Juvenile

11-23-66

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP)--A Latin American Baptist pastor here was shot by mistake and critically injured during a juvenile gang war two blocks from his home after he left a birthday party for his oldest daughter.

Jose Chavez, a Baptist minister and father of five, was permanently crippled by the gunshot wound in the spine. He may never walk again.

A brother and several friends of Chavez were leaving his home when eight youths ran toward them and yelled for them to run.

One of the youths pointed a rifle at them, and yelled again for them to run, said Pete Cabrera, one of the witnesses. "I heard a shot and saw him lying in the street," he said.

Cabrera said of the assailants, "we didn't know any of them. They were just on a rampage. They shot once and ran when Brother Chavez fell."

Two teenagers have been arrested in connection with the crime.

Chavez, a student at Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, was in critical condition in a San Antonio hospital for several days following the shooting.

H.B. Ramsour, president of the Institute, said it was not yet known how much longer Chavez would remain hospitalized.

Ramsour told the Baptist Standard that physicians still had no hope that Chavez would ever walk again. He quoted hospital personnel as saying that "irreparable damage to the spine" had occurred.

Chavez and his family moved to San Antonio in September when he began a four-year study at the Institute, and became pastor of the Clark Baptist Mission in San Antonio.

A few churches and several friends have brought food for the family, Ramsour said, adding that the Institute had established "a Chavez Family Fund to help meet the emergencies." He also said, "should anyone care to make a gift, it can be sent to the Institute and so designated."

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Southwestern Changes
Basic Degree Name

11-23-66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southern Baptists' largest seminary will change the name of its basic theological degree, the Bachelor of Divinity, to the Master of Divinity degree beginning with the fall semester in 1967.

The trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here voted the shift in nomenclature in keeping with a trend within the American Association of Theological Schools.

The Master of Theology degree (Th.M.) will be continued and seminary work done on the Th.M. will be credited toward the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) if the student is later approved for doctoral study.

In other action the trustees acknowledged the resignation of Yandall Woodfin professor of theology, who will become a professor in January at the International Baptist Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland as a missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

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Seminary president Robert E. Naylor read a congratulatory telegram from the National Association of Schools of Music on Southwestern's promotion into full membership.

The trustees also approved a new music in missions course which will be an elective in each of the three schools and is designed for study of approaches and techniques in foreign missions.

An operating budget of \$2.1 million was adopted for 1967.

At a faculty-trustee banquet, about 44 furloughed missionaries were honored. Naylor reported on his recent seven-week tour of Africa.

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Baptists Speak At Nashville
Inter-Faith Worship Service

11-23-66

NASHVILLE (BP)--For the first time in a quarter of a century, the religious leaders of Nashville sponsored an inter-faith Thanksgiving service and "supplication for peace," with two Southern Baptist Convention leaders as principal participants.

Duke K. McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., delivered the major address, saying that concern for peace on earth had brought together the people of such diversity of viewpoint.

He was introduced by H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who told the crowd: "God has invited us to His throne of grace to pray as concerned individuals for the peace of all the world."

They were flanked on the platform of War Memorial Auditorium in downtown Nashville by nearly 200 clergymen of nearly every denomination in the area.

The colorful robes of the Roman Catholic priests were intermingled with the black suits and robes of Protestant clergymen, while 2,000 local residents of all faiths watched, listened, prayed and worshipped.

In a dramatic procession that preceded the program, the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish clergy marched side by side, symbolic of the ecumenical spirit that prevailed.

"We are gathered here in thanksgiving and prayer for peace because we are people who believe in God," stated McCall in his prepared speech text.

McCall, however, acknowledged that "unquestionably there are many theological propositions on which we here assembled are in strong disagreement.

"It is important, nevertheless, that we gather together and affirm vigorously our common bond of faith which transcends propositional doctrine," he said.

McCall reminded the audience that they are heirs of culture patterns from all over the world, tracing the varied backgrounds of Americans which give them cause to be thankful for their great heritage.

Departing from his prepared text, McCall declared: "Brotherhood is no cut flower that grows in a hot house, but it must come up through the cracks of pavements to survive."

McCall recalled that this country was "born in religion and forged in trust in God."

"God is the god of history, for history is indeed His Story," said McCall. "God is still in control, and our prayers are not empty ones.

"On the anvil of history, He (God) is hammering out the frailties and foibles, and the follies of humanity for His sovereign purpose," McCall said.

The service was planned by a group of local clergymen, including a Catholic Bishop, a Jewish Rabbi, the head of the Tennessee Council of Churches, a Salvation Army official, and Baptist, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Methodist clergymen.

Two Baptists were on the planning committee--Gaye L. McGlothen, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, and Charles Boddie, president of American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville.

D.C. Baptists Urged To Work for 'Reconciliation'

WASHINGTON (BP)--The District of Columbia Baptist Convention went on record in support of fair housing practices in metropolitan Washington and pledged to support a drive for Congressional representation for the District of Columbia.

The action came during the 90th annual session of the convention held in the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church here. The convention is dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention.

Messengers to the convention called on Baptists and fellow Christians to "work diligently for the implementation of fair housing practices throughout the national capital area" and "to lead by example in making people of all minority races and religions welcome to move into our communities and join our churches on the same basis as all others."

The convention rejected a section in another resolution calling on real estate brokers to "follow democratic practices in the area of housing and to encourage a truly open market" and calling on government agencies to "consider their roles in removing any barriers that may exist to hinder a free and democratic housing market."

While willing to support the principle of Congressional representation for the District of Columbia, the messengers voted, by a two to one margin, to rescind a previous stand on Home Rule for the nation's capital.

The D. C. Baptists identified genuine Christian evangelism as "First, the proclamation of the word to the individual and second, but no less imperative, the redemption of the social order." They encouraged churches to attempt many varied programs for the redemption of man and his society.

In another resolution the convention expressed "dismay and regret" at the action of the American Baptist Convention in rejecting participation in the Crusade of the Americas, and strongly reaffirmed its previous action approving participation in the crusade.

In the opening session, Convention President Charles B. McInnis, a local attorney, challenged the D.C. Baptists to "adopt the street corners of the inner city as a home mission field" and to devote "at least half of its energy and resources" to the inner city mission field.

He called on Baptists to "roll outward" with the receding suburbs and establish chapels and churches in the fullest possible cooperation with the Maryland Baptist Convention.

Carl W. Tiller, president of the American Baptist Convention, reminded the messengers that dual alignment with American and Southern Baptist Conventions provides "an opportunity for Washington area churches to build bridges of friendship" between the two national conventions.

The messengers pledged themselves to "bridge the barriers of race and convention affiliation that separate our Baptist brethren in the national capital area."

Members and churches were encouraged to create "openness toward all fellow Christians" and to share whenever possible in service ministries with other Christians in the community.

In the concluding session, the convention honored William J. Crowder who is retiring after 17 years as director of missions and evangelism for D. C. Baptists.

The convention elected as its new president John A. Holt, pastor of the Luther Rise Baptist Church.

A budget of \$540,362 was adopted for 1967. Of this figure, \$204,900 will be given to national and international missions through the Southern and American Baptist Conventions.

There are 61 churches in the D. C. Baptist Convention, with a total membership of 39,044.

Former BWA President
Honored At Testimonial

WASHINGTON (BP)--One hundred persons from many parts of the world honored Theodore F. Adams of Richmond, Va., at a testimonial dinner here during the semi-annual meeting of the Baptist World Alliance administrative committee.

Adams is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Richmond, and a former president of the Baptist World Alliance (1955-1960).

At the same time the First Baptist Church, Richmond, presented to the Baptist World Alliance a portrait of Adams to be hung in the Alliance offices along with other BWA presidents.

W.R. Tolbert, vice president of Liberia, and current president of the Baptist World Alliance, was the first of a dozen persons to pay tribute to Adams and his wife for their service to Baptists around the world.

Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Alliance, pointed out that Adams "has friends on all continents and in many nations."

Robert S. Denny, associate secretary, recalled that Adams had been enlisted in youth work at the Baptist World Congress in Berlin in 1934 and has served on the BWA Executive Committee for 32 years.

In other actions the administrative committee looked to plans for a Baptist Youth World Conference in Berne, Switzerland in 1968 and a Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, Japan in 1970.

There will be an Asian Baptist Youth Congress in Iloilo City, Philippines in December 1966 and a Latin American Youth Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina in February 1967.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, reported "a ground swell of interest throughout Asia" looking to the 1970 meeting in Tokyo. This will be the first time the Alliance has held a World Congress in the Orient.

Nordenhaug reported on a trip, just concluded, to visit Baptists in the U.S.S.R. He had been accompanied by other Baptist leaders, including John W. Williams of Kansas City; W. Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn.; and Adolfs Klaupiks, relief coordinator of the Alliance. He said the group was cordially received and traveled to Baptist centers in many parts of the large nation.

Recognition was taken of the death of Jacov Zhidkov, leader of the all-union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the U.S.S.R., who died October 27.

Klaupiks reported on continuing relief needs in Africa and Asia, particularly in famine-stricken India. The Alliance serves as "a channel" for gathering and disbursing relief funds, handling a total of \$123,611 the past year.

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BP PHOTO to be mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

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Area Baptist Rallies
Recommended By BWA

11-23-66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Citywide and regional rallies on Baptist World Alliance Sunday next February 5 were recommended by the B.W.A. administrative committee at its semi-annual meeting here.

V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia, chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship, a committee of the B.W.A., told of a successful citywide rally in his city on Sunday evening, Nov. 20. All churches in the area cooperated in a mass meeting at Philadelphia's famed Constitution Hall, with W.R. Tolbert, president of the B.W.A. as speaker.

Similar rallies can be held on citywide and areawide bases on the first Sunday in February when Baptists of the world observe a day of special concern for fellow-believers in 120 countries, Hargroves said.

The Philadelphia meeting was considered a model for such rallies, because it was both inter-racial and inter-convention. All churches participated on the basis of their common doctrinal distinctives without regard to the identity of the national conventions or conferences to which they belong.

Hargroves explained that the plan is in keeping with a statement signed jointly by the presidents of six North American Baptists groups which hold membership in the North American Baptist Fellowship.

The statement had suggested that in order for Baptist of the continent "to work together for a common good," there should be discussions between leaders of the various groups, rallies on special occasions, and general concern for one another.

The reference to rallies urged that "all Baptists of a community ...meet for worship, praise, thanksgiving and petition for the ongoing on the Lord's work."

The B.W.A. committee felt that while the rally idea had been proposed initially for North American Baptists, it could well be adapted to Baptists in all 120 countries of the world where they worship and witness.

William R. Tolbert of Monrovia, Liberia, Alliance president, called for Baptist togetherness in Christian service. "This is a time," he said, "when we must all be representatives of our Lord. The nearer we come to being true images of the Christ, the greater will be our impact on the world.

"We cannot be in true fellowship with one another unless we are in fellowship with God," Tolbert said.

Tolbert, who also is vice president of the Republic of Liberia, had flown to Washington to preside at the administrative meeting. He also addressed the Baptist convention of South Carolina and spoke at the city-wide rally in Philadelphia.

He was elected president of the World Baptist fellowship at the Baptist World Congress in Miami in 1965 and will serve until 1970.