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**Mercer Trustees Suggest
Special Georgia Convention**

NACON, Ga. (BP)--Trustees of Mercer University voted here to ask the Georgia Baptist Convention to consider calling a special session to explore "the future financing of Christian education in Georgia Baptist colleges."

The action was taken after the Baptist college's trustees had voted to proceed promptly with construction of a \$1½ million science center, even though they were unable to obtain a federal loan to help finance the construction.

A few weeks earlier, the Georgia Baptist Convention rejected its Executive Committee's recommendation to allow Baptist schools to accept government loans, provided they repay any subsidy involved.

Mercer was waiting in the wings with a \$500,000 loan request for the science building, but did not ask for the loan when the convention voted down the policy recommendation favoring federal loans.

The Mercer trustees addressed their request for a special called convention on their financial crisis to the convention's Executive Committee, which meets Dec. 13.

In preparation for any such called convention session, the Mercer trustees suggested that a study committee composed equally of laymen and pastors be appointed to delve into the financial crisis facing Baptist schools in Georgia.

The trustees also recommended that "the findings and recommendations of the study committee be reported to a special called session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, a date to be determined by the Executive Committee."

The resolution adopted by the Mercer board authorized letting construction contracts on the science center immediately.

The science center will cost about \$1.5 million. About \$1 million is already in sight, and the remainder would have come from the federal loan, had the convention approved.

The resolution said that when funds on hand are exhausted, the remainder needed will "be negotiated as the circumstances and conditions at that moment, now estimated as mid-year of 1967, may require."

Rufus C. Harris, Mercer's president since 1960, told the trustees that "Mercer is now being conducted under new rules and with new dimensions added" because of the "advent of the current educational revolution and crisis."

He said Mercer cannot be expected to compete successfully with other colleges and universities if she must get along on less than adequate facilities, while at the same time charge higher tuition costs.

He said "a way must be found to adequately finance the science building and other needed facilities."

Harris went on to say that additional physical facilities will be required, a good faculty must be recruited and retained, students must be adequately provided for and alumni and friends must know that they are supporting a cause which they regard as more than adequate.

Texas Convention Reports
Biggest Month's Gifts Ever

DALLAS (BP)--Missions gifts from Texas Baptist churches in November were the largest of any single month in the history of the Baptist General Convention.

Announcement of the record \$1.12 million through the state convention's Cooperative Program during November highlighted sessions of the convention's Executive Board meeting here.

In major actions, the board elected two persons to positions on its staff, approved steps leading to an expansion program at a Baptist hospital, and heard plans for an association to link together the Baptist schools in Texas.

T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the convention who announced the record missions gifts, said that the November receipts, almost \$150,000 over the month's budget, boosts total receipts for the year to almost \$10.9 million, within reach of the convention's \$12 million budget for the year.

Robert D. Longshore of Littlefield, Tex., was elected to fill a vacancy in the convention's endowment and capital giving department. Longshore has been pastor since 1959 of the First Baptist Church of Littlefield, Tex.

The board elected George B. Joslin of Dallas as a full language missions department associate in ministries to the deaf.

Joslin had previously been jointly employed by the Texas convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The board action transfers his position wholly to the Texas convention's language missions department.

A recommendation that Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas be allowed to conduct a \$4 million fund raising campaign and to negotiate for another \$4 million in long-range financing was approved.

E. N. Jones, secretary of the convention's Christian Education Commission, presented a progress report on a proposed organization which would act for Texas Baptists' nine colleges and universities.

Plans were outlined for an organization called the Associated Baptist Colleges of Texas, Inc., which would promote activities of joint benefit to all Baptist educational institutions in the state.

Re-elected chairman of the board was W. M. Shamburger, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tyler, Tex.

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Texas Woman Wills \$50,000
To Southwestern Seminary

12/5/66

FORT WORTH (BP)--A gift of \$50,000 has been left to the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here from the estate of the late Mrs. A. Van Howeling of Plainview, Tex.

L. B. Reavis, director of development for the seminary, announced the gift and said Mrs. Van Howeling had held a lifelong interest in young preachers and had been a friend of the seminary for many many years.

Prior to her death Oct. 19, 1966, Mrs. Van Howeling requested the contribution be used for "the education of missionaries and ministers of the Gospel." Her gift will be added to the seminary endowment fund, Reavis said.

Several years ago a large gift to Wayland Baptist College in Plainview made possible the construction of the Van Howeling Library on that campus.

She left several other bequests in her will including the College Heights Baptist Church of Plainview and Wayland Baptist College.

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Baptist School Enrollment
Up 3,130; Total Of 67,752

NASHVILLE (BP)--Fall enrollments at Baptist-affiliated colleges, universities, academies and Bible schools increased by 3,130 students over fall enrollments last year, reaching a total of 67,752 students.

A statistical report on enrollments at the Baptist schools was released here by the Education Commission of The Southern Baptist Convention, based on enrollment reports from the schools' registrars.

The report covered enrollments at 39 Baptist senior colleges and universities, 15 Baptist junior colleges, seven academics, and five Bible schools, or a total of 56 educational institutions.

In addition to the 67,752 regular or full-time students enrolled in the Baptist schools, there were 11,267 "other" students enrolled in non-credit, extension and correspondence courses, bringing total enrollment at all the schools to 78,019.

The 56 educational institutions reported that they had graduated 11,374 students last year, compared to 11,021 the previous year.

The largest number of students were enrolled in the 39 Baptist senior colleges and universities, which reported 63,416 full-time students this year, compared to 53,906 last fall.

The 15 Baptist junior colleges reported 11,494 in the fall of 1966, and 10,788 the previous year. The seven academics reported 2,459 students, only five more than in 1965; the Bible schools set enrollments at 599, a drop of 34 in enrollment.

Largest of the 56 schools is Baylor University in Waco, Tex., with 7,435 regular students enrolled, an increase of 310 over last fall's report.

Others listed with the ten largest enrollments were: Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N.C., with 3,022 (2nd); University of Richmond (Va.), 2,906 (3rd); Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., 2,798, (4th); Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., 2,403 (5th); Campbell College, Buies Creek, N.C., 2,172, (6th); Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., 1,920 (7th); Mercer University, Macon, Ga., 1,882, (8th); Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., 1,770 (9th); and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., 1,662, (10th).

The comparative enrollments were based on regular, full-time students rather than total enrollments.

Most of the 56 educational institutions are owned by state Baptist conventions. The Southern Baptist Convention only owns seminaries, rather than colleges or universities.

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Baptist Educator, Pastor
Walter Pope Binns, Dies

12/5/66

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (BP)--Walter Pope Binns, 71, former president of William Jewell College and prominent in national Baptist affairs, died here Dec. 3 as a result of a heart attack.

A memorial service was held Dec. 5 at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., with pastor J. T. Ford, officiating.

Dr. Binns was president of the Liberty, Mo., college from 1943 to 1962. For ten years he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and was chairman of its administrative committee for eight years.

For the past three years Dr. Binns was chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, retiring from this post in October 1966. He was a member of the Baptist Public Affairs Committee for 23 years.

He also was president of the Virginia Baptist General Association and president of the SBC Foreign Mission and Relief and Annuity Boards for several years.

He has also been on the executive committees of the Baptist World Alliance and of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

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Dr. Binns was a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He held honorary degrees from Mercer and Occidental Colleges and from Tulane University.

Early in his career, he served several churches in Georgia and Kentucky. From 1931 to 1943, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va.

Surviving are his wife, Blanch M.; two sons, E. Mallery Binns, pastor of Braddock Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va., and J. Walter of Wayne, Pa.; two daughters, Mrs. James R. Bercaw of Wilmington, Del., and Mrs. Charles A. Wetzell of Danville, Va., and 16 grandchildren.

Memorial services were also held at the First Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., Dec. 7 with Louie D. Newton and Dick H. Hall, Jr., officiating. Burial was in Macon Ga.

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Accrediting Group Elects
Seminary Associate Member

12/5/66

DALLAS (BP)--The School of Church Music of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La., was elected an associate member of the National Association of Schools of Music at their annual meeting here.

In addition, the Graduate Commission of the association approved the seminary's curriculum leading to the Master of Church Music degree.

The National Association of Schools of Music is the recognized accrediting agency for departments and schools of music in institutions of higher education in the United States. New Orleans Seminary may apply for full membership at the end of two years.

This accreditation of the school of music is in addition to the accreditation of the entire seminary by the American Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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'Apostle To Roughnecks'
Dies At 74 In Texas

12/5/66

HENDERSON, Tex. (BP)--Funeral services were conducted here Dec. 4 for Jesse N. Phillips, 74, retired minister who became known as the "apostle to the roughnecks," during the boom days of the East Texas oil field.

A former associational missionary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he served in the Baptist ministry for 50 years prior to his retirement in 1959.

He was a pastor of churches in Tennessee, Kentucky and Arizona in addition to his Texas pastorates.

During his ministry he received 3,011 persons into the churches, married 398 couples and performed nearly 600 funerals.

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Former Baptist PR Man
Cited For U.S.I.A. Work

12/5/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Lloyd Wright, former public relations director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was presented a "distinguished service award," by the United States Information Agency for his work as director of press and publications for U.S.I.A.

Leonard H. Marks, director of U.S.I.A., presented the award, the highest the government agency gives to its employees, to the 34-year-old former Texas Baptist public relations man. He was public affairs deputy at the Peace Corps after leaving the Texas convention.

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