



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2393  
**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

**BUREAU**

**BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD** Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631

February 22, 1967

Attitude of Baptists  
Toward SBC Surveyed

~~108~~ 142

574

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists are not giving enough attention to contemporary moral, social and economic problems.

This is the opinion, with varying degrees of agreement, of nearly two-thirds of Baptist church leaders polled in a broad, cross-section survey to determine attitudes of church leadership toward the Southern Baptist Convention.

More than two-thirds of the respondents agreed to some extent that Southern Baptist churches often seem to be afraid to face controversial issues.

Nine out of ten agreed to some extent that Southern Baptist pastors "present the divine truth as stated in the Bible in a way which has meaning for us today."

More than 6,800 Baptist leaders from 590 churches were polled in the survey, with usable questionnaires returned by 3,445 persons.

Returning the questionnaires were 320 Baptist pastors, 214 religious education or music directors, 352 Sunday School and Training Union leaders, 193 Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) presidents, 103 Brotherhood presidents, 170 chairmen of deacons, 1,005 other laymen, and 949 other laywomen.

The survey was conducted by the research and statistics department of the Baptist Sunday School Board here, at the request of the SBC public relations advisory committee and the Baptist Education Study Task steering committee.

A majority of the respondents were generally opposed to federal aid in the form of outright grants or loans, a summary of the research report said.

On outright grants, 47.1 per cent were opposed to grants under any circumstance, and 25.1 per cent said they did not favor government grants "as a rule."

On government loans, there was less opposition, with 31.4 per cent opposed under all circumstances, and 35.3 per cent saying they did not favor loans "as a rule."

Eighty-two per cent of the respondents felt Baptist colleges are vital to the denomination.

In rating the work of nine SBC agencies and organizations, the SBC Sunday School Board and the SBC Foreign Mission Board had the highest number of "excellent" ratings.

The pastors were more critical of the convention than those of any other respondent group, said the research paper summary statement. WMU presidents were the most favorable.

Pastors and religious education-music directors disagreed generally with laymen and laywomen on a question asking if they believed Southern Baptists have a bad reputation in race relations.

Nearly 70 per cent of the pastors and 61 per cent of the religious education-music workers generally agreed that the SBC's race relations reputation was bad; but from 50 to 63 per cent of the lay leaders of the churches responding said the reputation was not bad. On the overall average, about 40 per cent of the respondents said the race reputation was bad, and 51 per cent said it was not.

The pastors and laymen generally agreed, however, that Southern Baptists' words on race relations speak louder than their deeds, with degrees of agreement ranging from 60 to 79 per cent.

Almost two-thirds of the respondents felt that Southern Baptists should be willing to involve themselves in the profession, general process and specific issues of politics.

142

Big majorities of both pastors and laymen agreed that Southern Baptists are probably considered "fundamentalists" in the interpretation of the Bible. Percentages of agreement ranged from 60 to 87 per cent, with pastors on the high end.

In a check-list of 23 words, the words considered most descriptive of the SBC were "well-organized" and "missions minded."

Only about six per cent of the laypersons felt the quality of work for most Southern Baptist churches in their areas was below average, while almost one-fourth of the pastors felt SBC work in their area was below average.

About 62 per cent of the laypersons not in designated leadership positions said they attend church twice or more each week, compared to 94 per cent for laypersons holding the designated leadership positions.

The lengthy research study was entitled, "Southern Baptist Speak Out '66 and was designed to obtain a profile of attitudes toward the Southern Baptist Convention on the part of Southern Baptists," said the report.

-30-

Philadelphia Recommended  
As '72 SBC Meeting Site

~~143~~ 143

2/22/67

154

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to recommend that the convention hold its 1972 session in Philadelphia, Pa.

If the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach, meeting May 30-June 2, approves of the proposal, it would be the first time in the denomination's history that the convention will be held in Philadelphia.

Exact dates will be proposed at the Miami Beach meeting.

Archie Ellis, chairman of the administrative sub-committee of the SBC Executive Committee, told the 58-member group here that the new Philadelphia Civic Center, to be completed this year, would seat 13,500 and that the Philadelphia hotels could provide 7,247 rooms.

Attendance at the annual convention (registered "messengers") ranges from about 10,000 to 16,000.

Final approval on selection of the 1972 convention site and dates must come from the SBC when it meets in Miami Beach this year.

Dates and places for the convention are selected five years in advance. Other future conventions will be held in New Orleans, 1968; in Houston, 1969; in Denver, 1970, and in St. Louis, 1971.

-30-

SBC President Calls  
For A New Humanity

~~143~~ 144

2/22/67

182

NASHVILLE (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, H. Franklin Paschall told the Executive Committee of the SBC here that the greatest need of America today is a new humanity--a new kind of people.

Paschall, just returned from a three-weeks tour of Baptist missions work in South and Central America, praised the proposed 1969 Crusade of the Americas, an evangelistic campaign, and said the crusade is designed primarily to change humanity.

"It is time for us to break out beyond ourselves, beyond our frozen orthodoxy, to live the gospel of Jesus Christ in our time in our world," declared Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville.

He said that being a Christian should so change humanity that Christians will be interested in changing their environment and reshaping the world.

"Baptists have been very amiss for not seeing the whole city, the whole country, the whole world," Paschall said.

He called the proposed Crusade of Americas, which will encompass both North, Central and South America, "an opportunity to see this whole hemisphere, and to make an impact on the whole hemisphere."

-more-

143-144

The SBC president urged Baptists to seek every means and every way to make an impact on the whole hemisphere with the Gospel.

Paschall spoke to the 58-member Executive Committee and about 100 guests during the twice-annual meeting here in February.

SBC Executive Committee  
Proposes \$26,700,000 Budget

-30-  


2/22/67

448

NASHVILLE (BP)--A record \$26.7 million proposed Cooperative Program budget was drafted here by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for recommendation to the convention when it meets in Miami Beach, May 30-June 2.

The proposed 1968 budget would be an increase of \$2½ million over the 1967 budget of \$24.2 million.

As part of the open-end budget proposal, all contributions which might exceed the \$26.7 million goal would be divided two-thirds to foreign missions and one-third to home missions.

Biggest allocations of the proposed budget would go to support foreign missions, home missions, and six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board would receive \$13,918,000 under the budget proposal, an increase of \$1,237,000 over the 1967 allocation.

The SBC Home Mission Board would receive \$4.6 million, an increase of \$575,800 over the 1967 allocation.

Six theological seminaries owned and operated by the convention would receive a total of \$4,403,000, an increase of \$570,000 over their 1967 budget allotment.

An allocation of \$1,085,000 would go to the SBC Radio and Television Commission, an increase of \$108,000 over their 1967 budget allotment.

Of the \$26.7 million total goal, \$2,216,000 would go for capital needs causes, and \$24,484,000 would go to the operating budgets of Baptist causes included in the budget.

A total of 20 Southern Baptist agencies, institutions and organizations will receive budget allocations through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan.

Officials of the 20 SBC-affiliated organizations presented budget requests to the Executive Committee totalling \$25,859,525 during an all-day budget hearing session here in the February meeting of the 58-member Executive Committee.

Following the pleas for budget increases, the program sub-committee trimmed \$1 3/4 million from the requested allocations in recommending the \$24.4 million operating budget.

Strong pleas for substantial budget increases were presented by the agency heads of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Radio-Television Commission, Christian Life Commission, Brotherhood Commission, and by the presidents of the six seminaries.

Millard Berquist, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., told the Executive Committee that the seminaries had been operating at a deficit for two years, and that the major problem was increasing faculty salaries to prevent seminary professors from leaving their posts to teach at colleges or universities at twice or three times the salary.

Requests for budget increases ranging from \$11,600 to \$24,700 were presented by the Southern Baptist Foundation, the SBC Education Commission, the SBC Historical Commission, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The SBC Annuity Board suggested a \$25,000 decrease in their allocation, which was cut to \$225,000.

Four allocations would remain the same as their 1967 budget allotment: the convention operating budget, the Southern Baptist Hospitals, the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, and the SBC Stewardship Commission.

The proposed 1968 SBC budget, along with the amount of increase or decrease compared to the 1967 budget, follows:

## 1968 Proposed Cooperative Program Budget

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968 Proposal</u>
Convention Operating	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Foreign Mission Board	11,780,300	13,018,000
Home Mission Board	4,024,200	4,600,000
Annuity Board	250,000	225,000
All Seminaries	3,833,000	4,403,000
SBC Foundation	61,800	67,000
SBC Hospital	36,000	36,000
American Seminary	90,600	90,600
Brotherhood Commission	226,100	235,000
Christian Life Commission	100,000	125,000
Education Commission	94,000	110,000
Historical Commission	90,500	95,000
Stewardship Commission	83,000	83,000
Radio-T.V. Commission	977,000	1,085,000
Public Affairs Committee	104,000	111,400
	<u>\$21,950,500</u>	<u>\$24,484,000</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL NEEDS	\$ 2,249,500	\$ 2,216,000
TOTAL BUDGET GOAL	<u>\$24,000,000</u>	<u>\$26,700,000*</u>

\*All in excess of \$26,700,000 to be distributed two-thirds to the Foreign Mission Board and one-third to the Home Mission Board.