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March 23, 1967

Georgia Board Vetoes
Special Convention

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TOCCOA, Ga. (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention vetoed here a request for a called convention session to consider the "financial crisis" facing Georgia Baptist colleges.

The Executive Committee approved instead a special study of the problem this fall after the nation-wide Baptist Education Study Task findings are reported.

In a quarterly session at Georgia Baptist Assembly here, the Executive Committee said "No" to a plea from Mercer University, a Baptist school in Macon, Ga., asking that a special committee study college financing and that the committee make its report to a called session of the convention.

Instead, the Executive Committee instructed its education and administration committees, along with the Georgia Baptist Education Commission, to make special studies of the final reports of the Baptist Education Study Task, and arrange for a depth study of the college financial problems when the Executive Committee meets again in September.

The Southern Baptist Convention-wide Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) is due to make its final report sometime this summer following the second National Study Conference in Nashville, June 12-15.

The Georgia Baptist Executive Committee did approve administrative plans for handling any special monies designated for Christian education, and gave its endorsement to an idea called "Operation Over and Above," which several Georgia Baptist churches have begun in recent months.

"Operation Over and Above" involves church members giving \$1 per member per year over and above regular gifts for Christian education.

In other actions, the Executive Committee gave Norman Park Junior College (Baptist) at Norman Park, Ga., authority to erect two dormitories at a cost of about \$500,000 and authorized Shorter College (Baptist) at Rome, Ga., to borrow up to \$250,000 from commercial sources for a library and other instructional facilities.

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"Team Teaching" To Begin
At Southwestern Seminary

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FORT WORTH (BP)--An interdisciplinary seminar featuring a concept called "team teaching" has been developed at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, and will begin with the fall term of 1967.

Four professors--from biblical, historical, systematic and practical theology fields--have been asked to cooperate in the undergraduate study program. It will offer two hours credit each semester.

Faculty for the session includes Ralph L. Smith, professor of Old Testament; Robert A. Baker, professor of church history; Milton Ferguson, professor of philosophy of religion; and C. W. Brister, professor of pastoral ministry.

Each professor will have a specific seminar, but at various times the seminars will be rotated and combined for dialogue, seminary officials said.

Common area of study for each of the four fields will be the chronological period from 1648 to the present. The seminar will feature lectures by the professors, reading, strong bibliographical orientation, dialogue, and limited research in assigned areas.

The seminar will serve as an honors program with enrollment limited to third-year students whose grade quality and over-all excellence qualify them, according to seminary officials. Admission will be permitted by faculty invitation only.

Professor Baker, chairman of the seminary's graduate committee in theology, said that the program will help in "decompartmentalizing specific fields through integration and dialogue." He said it would also provide "advance methodology and close faculty-student relationships."

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Russian Baptists, On 100th
Anniversary, Urge World Peace

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MOSCOW (BP)--Russian Baptists have issued a "Jubilee Message To All the Christians of the World," calling for Christian unity for world peace and for opposition to nuclear war.

The 438-word message was sent to top religious leaders of the world as part of the 1967 observance of the centennial of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the USSR.

"On our jubilee days we call on all the Christians of the world to earnest prayer for the end of war in Vietnam in the near future," said the statement.

"We do not see another way to mark the anniversary as to call on all the Christians of the world to unite all their Christian efforts to establish on earth a durable peace and justice for all people and for each individual person," the statement said.

In addition to a plea for Christian unity to prevent a world war disaster, the Russian Baptists also urged Christians of the world to face honestly the problems of race, national equality, social justice, hunger, disease, poverty, illiteracy, and aid for the oppressed and developing countries.

"It must be confessed that the Church of Jesus Christ was not anxious enough about all these problems, and due to her isolation was indifferent to the needs and sorrows of mankind," said the statement.

"On these days of the centenary the Russian Brotherhood feels it necessary for all Christians to participate in the solution of these important problems of mankind."

The jubilee message added that during the 100-year history of Russian Baptists, "three war storms have blown over our people--the Russian-Japanese War of 1904, World War I, and World War II."

The Russian Baptists said that Christians were partly at fault "because the Christians of the world gave the cause of the defense of world peace so little consideration.

"This sad fact awoke the consciousness of Russian Christians, including our Brotherhood, and when World War II was over the Brotherhood decided to do everything so that the fire of World War III might not spread over the earthly planet, the fire which will burn both mankind and all its century-old culture.

"On the days of the centenary, the Brotherhood does realize as never before the great responsibility of the Christians all over the world for the preservation of peace on the globe and for the necessity of Christian unity to prevent a world war disaster with the use of the most terrible kind of weapons--nuclear weapons."

The mimeographed statement was signed, "With brotherly jubilee greetings, the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, USSR, Moscow, G.P.O. Box 520."

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Bell To Teach In Orient
On Seminary Sabbatical

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FORT WORTH (BP)--A. Donald Bell, professor of psychology and human relations, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here will teach at two Baptist schools in the Far East during 1967-68.

The announcement was made jointly by the seminary here and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

On sabbatic leave from Southwestern Seminary, Bell will serve as visiting professor at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines next fall.

At the end of the school year he will lecture in Hong Kong Baptist College, Hong Kong.

Before leaving for the Orient, Bell will be a visiting lecturer at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., during the summer of 1967.

Bell, who began teaching at Southwestern in 1951, served for nine years as director of Southwestern's graduate studies in religious education.

Previously he has served as Baptist Foundation professor at Southern Illinois University and vice president of Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, Miss., and Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex.

His family will accompany him and combine a world tour visiting some of the mission areas, returning to Fort Worth in the late summer of 1968.

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