



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 28, 1967

SBC Inter-Agency Council
Sets Goals, Planning Effort

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The Inter-Agency Council of the Southern Baptist Convention approved her denominational goals for 1967-1969, adopted a system of planning jointly the efforts of state Baptist conventions and SBC agencies, and elected officers during the council's annual meeting here.

The council, composed of representatives from each agency of the convention and several other SBC organizations, also authorized a study of the possibility of a computer service for all SBC agencies and approved bylaw changes which re-organized the council's coordinating committee.

Two-year goals for the denomination's programs for 1967-69 were approved, and will be recommended to the SBC Executive Committee during its next meeting.

The goals, along with a list of strategies to reach the goals, dealt with five areas: increase in individual and group maturity among Southern Baptists, increase in church membership, increase in church usefulness to the community and world, increase in gifts for the work of the churches, and increase in efficiency in church administration.

All but the first area suggested numerical goals. The church membership goals, for example, called for 11,350,000 members by 1968, and 11.7 million members by 1969. Strategies for reaching the membership goals included achieving a Sunday School enrollment of 8 million, starting 1,000 new churches or missions, and use of an on-going plan of evangelism by 15,800 churches.

The goal on church usefulness to the community and world suggested strategies of getting 15,000 churches to develop and use mission action plans, including ministering to alcoholics, delinquents, imprisoned, migrants, language groups, drug addicts, unwed mothers, poor, sick, internationals, etc.

Financial goals included a goal of \$720 million in total gifts through Baptist churches by 1968, of which 10½ per cent goes to world missions through the Cooperative Program; and a 1969 goal of \$750 million total gifts of which 11 per cent goes to the Cooperative Program.

The number one goal area, however, was not numerical but dealt with improving the quality of church members. It called for assisting Baptist churches to develop members characterized by four different understandings, eight different attitudes, and six different skills. All dealt with developing more mature church members with a deeper and more practical faith.

Also approved by the council was a program of Cooperative Promotion Planning to be used by SBC and state Baptist workers to cooperate in promoting selected major SBC emphases and goals to assist Baptist churches.

The Cooperative Promotion Planning approach is a simplified and telescoped version of what was formerly called State Strategy. Nine states in the SBC have indicated interest in the plan--Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, District of Columbia, Louisiana, and Kansas.

In other action, the council elected new officers, appointed several sub-committees, and approved changes in its bylaws which re-organized the council's coordinating committee.

Elected chairman of the council was Merrill D. Moore, executive secretary of the SBC Stewardship Commission here. Other officers are Mrs. Marie Mathis of the Woman's Missionary Union staff, Birmingham, as vice chairman; and Marvin Crowe of the SBC Sunday School Board here as secretary.

The council approved the report of its administrative committee, composed of the heads of each SBC agency, which named members to the council's agenda committee, calendar of activities committee, and coordinating committee. Arthur Rutledge of the SBC Home Mission Board was elected the new chairman of the administrative committee.

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The new bylaws for the council's coordinating committee reorganized the committee into five sub-committees and five work groups.

The council also approved a statement defining a program of church camping. The statement will be presented to the Executive Committee of the SBC for its consideration.

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Graham Closes Puerto Rico Crusade, 4,681 "Inquirers"

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--In an Easter sunrise service here, Evangelist Billy Graham closed his Puerto Rico Campaign after preaching to 112,200 in eight days.

Graham called the response "tremendous," reporting a total of 4,681 decisions made by "inquirers" during the eight-day campaign.

About 13,500 attended the final Easter sunrise service. Following the Baptist evangelist's sermon, an estimated 600 persons came forward as "inquirers" to stand in front of the platform.

The sunrise service opened with 100 girls, dressed in white formals and carrying Easter lilies, marching onto the turf at Hiram Bithorn Stadium. They stood in the form of a cross as the early morning sun rose over clouds ringing the horizon and as the audience sang "He Lives."

During the sermon, Graham said that the good news of today is that Christ is alive. "We are going to live forever, with him, if we put our faith in Christ."

Graham had not held an evangelistic campaign in Puerto Rico since 1958, when he preached to 60,000 people in four nights.

He asked the Christians of Puerto Rico to pray for his next campaign, slated in Winnipeg, Canada, in May. He also has meetings scheduled in London, Kansas, and Tokyo during 1967.

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Senator Seeks To Clear School Prayer Decisions

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A proposed U. S. Senate resolution states that a time for "prayerful meditation" in public schools is not ruled out by the Supreme Court decisions on Bible reading and prayer.

Introduced by Sen. Vance Hartke (D., Ind.) the resolution would "express the sense of the Senate with respect to religious practices" in public schools.

Such resolutions are proposed in an effort to get some expression from Congress on the meaning of the Supreme Court decisions without resorting to the drastic step of constitutional "prayer amendments."

The resolution expresses the opinion that time for prayerful meditation is not ruled out of public schools provided: (1) that no public official prescribes or recites the prayer which is offered, and (2) that the individual participating would be permitted to pray as he chooses in accord with the free exercise of religion.

Hartke introduced similar resolutions in the 88th and 89th Congresses. Others have done likewise. No action, however, has been taken on these proposals.

Many Senators and Congressmen object to attempts to interpret court decisions by resolutions from the legislative branch of government.

The resolution was referred to the Senate judiciary committee.

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Mercer University Chosen
For National Math Grant

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Mercer University, a Baptist school in Macon, Ga., is one of 11 colleges and universities chosen for special summer conferences on science and mathematics, according to announcement by the National Science Foundation.

Mercer will receive a grant of \$10,720 for a four-week conference which will provide intensive training for mathematics teachers and supervisors.

The National Science Foundation has funded \$123,700 to provide support for the conferences, covering costs for room and board, books and travel, and exemption from college or university tuition and fees.

Conference participants will return to their home school systems and serve as leaders for in-service instruction of elementary school personnel.

In addition to Mercer, one other church-related institution was selected: College of Idaho, a Presbyterian school in Caldwell, Idaho.

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency to strengthen basic research and education in the sciences in the nation.

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Medical Doctors, Personnel
To Discuss SBC Missions

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MIAMI (BP)--About 200 Baptist doctors, dentists and other medical personnel are expected to attend a breakfast briefing on foreign medical missions May 30 here during the Southern Baptist Convention.

Purpose of the meeting is to expose Baptist medical people to the world-wide opportunities to serve humanity, said Dr. Franklin T. Fowler medical consultant for the SBC Foreign Missions Board.

Theme of the 7 a.m. breakfast in Miami's Columbus Hotel will be "A Call to The Baptist Medical Profession to a Greater Witness."

The meeting will be sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission in cooperation with the SBC Foreign Mission Board. Tickets cost \$2.50 each.

Program features include medical doctors and dentists now serving in foreign missions who will talk about their work.

The Foreign Mission Board offers doctors and dentists opportunities to serve for a year in one of the medical mission institutions overseas, Dr. Fowler said. Family travel expenses, housing, and maintenance are provided by the Foreign Mission Board.

Physicians also may serve for a period of three to six weeks during their vacation at their own expense, Dr. Fowler said.

In charge of reservations for the breakfast is Ernest C. Nott Jr., of Baptist Hospital, Miami.

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Reynolds To Direct Music
At Berne Youth Conference

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WASHINGTON (BP)--William J. Reynolds of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville has been named director of music for the seventh Baptist Youth World Conference when it meets in Berne, Switzerland, July 22-28, 1968, the Baptist World Alliance announced here.

The Berne meeting will be the fifth world conference for which Reynolds has directed music, or assisted. He directed music at the youth conferences in Toronto in 1958 and Beirut in 1963, and at the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1960 and as assistant to the director at the Miami Beach Congress in 1965.

Reynolds is director of editorial services for the church music department of the SBC Sunday School Board.

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C. A. Roberts Elected
Southwestern Professor

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FORT WORTH (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, C. A. Roberts of Tallahassee, Fla., has been elected head of the evangelism department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Roberts, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tallahassee for the past five years, will assume the teaching position effective May 1, seminary President Robert E. Naylor said.

Calling his election a significant step, Naylor said Roberts "will come to the seminary out of the mainstream of Southern Baptist life with a background in youth and student evangelism and from a place of honor among his fellow ministers."

Roberts was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Altus, Okla., from 1958-62 before going to the 5,000-member church in Tallahassee.

A native of Waco, Tex., he is a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist) in Waco, and Southwestern Seminary, receiving the doctor of theology degree in 1960. On graduation from the seminary, he received the Albert Venting Jr. Award given to the outstanding graduate.

Roberts in 1963 was named Tallahassee's Man of the Year, and in 1964 was one of Florida's five Outstanding Young Men.

He was elected president of the SBC Pastors' Conference during the 1966 meeting in Detroit.

Roberts has traveled and lectured in Europe, the Middle East, Russia, South America and the Orient. He is the author of five books and numerous articles for Southern Baptist publications.

Currently, Roberts is chaplain for the Florida House of Representatives, and for the Florida State University football team.