



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) 523-2593
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

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Virginia Budget Would Cut SBC Causes, Increase School Support

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A proposed \$4.6 million budget for 1968 which would decrease the percentage going to Southern Baptist Convention causes and increase support of Virginia Baptist schools was approved by the General Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia here.

After nearly two hours discussion, the board voted to decrease the percentage of the budget going to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program by 4½ per cent, and to increase by 4½ per cent the amount staying in the state, primarily to increase support of the schools.

Under the proposed 1968 budget, 66½ per cent would stay in Virginia, and 33½ per cent would go to SBC causes. The 1967 budget was split on a 62-38 per cent ratio.

The board voted to amend the budget recommended by the budget committee to provide more support for capital funds to the four Baptist schools in Virginia after a plea from George C. Modlin, president of the University of Richmond.

Modlin said that the three junior colleges and the University of Richmond face a crisis in financial support, and outlined a threat to the schools as a result of the "unprecedented program of education recently launched by the Commonwealth of Virginia," reported the Religious Herald, Baptist state paper in Virginia.

Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, other Baptist schools are facing a similar crisis in financial support. But some Baptist leaders strongly oppose taking support away from Baptist missions efforts and giving it to the schools instead.

In Nashville, the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, which channels Cooperative Program contributions to all SBC causes, voiced opposition to the Virginia board's action, which must get final approval from the state convention meeting Nov. 14-16 in Alexandria, Va.

"We are sympathetic with the problems of Baptist schools," Routh said, "but we do not believe the answer is to be found in taking the funds from theological education, home and foreign missions, and other SBC causes.

"History has shown that the designated gifts have jumped in a state and the increase in Cooperative Program growth has slowed when drastic adjustments like this are made," Routh said.

Routh pointed out that the actual amount to go to SBC missions causes under the proposed budget would be cut from \$1,710,000 in 1967 to \$1,557,750 in 1968, a decrease of \$152,000. If the percentage to SBC causes had remained at 38 per cent, the actual amount to SBC causes would have increased by \$57,000.

During his plea for more support for the schools, Modlin listed four factors in the crisis facing the schools: (1) inadequate facilities in contrast to superior buildings being constructed by state schools with large outlays provided by the government, (2) lack of operation funds to pay faculty salaries within the range set by state institutions of higher learning, (3) refusal to accept federal grants as a partial solution to the problem, and (4) decline in Cooperative Program gifts to the schools by the Baptist General Association.

Modlin proposed that the state convention increase its support going to capital needs of the schools, that a five-year capital needs program for the schools be given preferred item status in the budget, that a fixed proportion of the budget go to the schools, that the ratio of funds going to SBC causes and state causes be changed, and that drastic shifts be made in the budget to provide operational funds for the schools.

A recommendation from the education committee of the board specifically urged the board to shift the percentage from 62 per cent to 66½ per cent, with the additional funds going to the schools.

The budget committee, however, had recommended an increase of \$60,000 in operations for the schools, and had recommended a cut in the capital needs outlay by about \$55,000.

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After nearly two hours of discussion, the board adopted an amendment to the budget providing an additional \$209,250 in capital funds for the schools as a preferred item in the budget.

The proposed budget, which must get final approval by the Baptist General Association of Virginia next fall, would provide a total of \$700,000 in operations for the schools, plus \$534,971 in capital needs funds, including the \$209,250 allocation as a preferred item.

The proposed budget would be an increase of \$150,000 over the \$4½ million budget for 1967, if approved by the full convention.

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12 Win Honors In SBC
Speaking, Bible Contests

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Five young people and seven teenage intermediates received national recognition in public speaking and Bible "Sword Drill" contests during the annual Baptist Training Union Leadership and Youth Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assembly.

The speakers tournament for young people demonstrates the youths' skill in public speaking, while the Bible "Sword Drill" demonstrates the intermediates' skill in quickly finding specific Bible scriptures.

The five young people fought against speaking demerits for an excellent score and a possible "speaker of distinction" award. All five got both.

The contest at Ridgecrest represents the pinnacle of competition for the young people.

Each one began in his local church, then won his associational, district, and state tournaments to get to the Ridgecrest competition.

Representing five states, the new speakers of distinction are Barbara Jean Emert, Cumberland, Md.; Laurie Gardner, Carlisle, Ohio; Michale Clitus Blackwell, Gastonia, N.C.; Tommy Lynn Laepple, Sheldon, Mo.; and Reginal Mastus, Mobile, Ala.

In the third Intermediate Master Swordsman Drill all seven contestants received top honors.

The intermediates race each other to Bible verses ranging from incomplete quotations to doctrinal statements for the Master Swordsman citation.

Winners and the states they represent were Randy Brown, Louisiana; Jo Ann Utter, North Carolina; Jeff Sharp, Florida; Jane Dickett, South Carolina; Susan Hutchins, Maryland; David Atkinson, Kentucky; and Jeanne Robison, Ohio.

The speaker's tournament was directed by Carlton Carter, young people's consultant, Training Union department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Bob R. Taylor, consultant in intermediate work at the Training Union department, directed the Sword Drill.

J. Winston Pearce, professor of preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., brought evening services at the conference.

Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly is one of two assemblies owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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Largest SBC Church To Spend
Year Marking 100th Birthday

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DALLAS (BP)--The 14,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, will spend a year in observation of its 100th birthday, beginning July 30, 1967.

The church was constituted on July 30, 1868.

At the beginning of the observance, the pastor, W. A. Criswell, will preach on "The Old Time Religion," and members of the choir will sing hymns of the 1800's and wear costumes of the period.

The church will have a booth at the State Fair of Texas here this fall to point out its anniversary year.

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A pageant to be presented one week before Christmas will tell the story of the church.

On the centennial Sunday, July 30, 1968, a full length book on the history of the church will be released. The book's author is Leon McBeth, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Christianity Colored "Secular,"
Cothen Tells Glorieta Crowds

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Christianity has been colored secular, a leading Baptist educator told 1,956 Southern Baptists attending the third Sunday School leadership conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

Grady C. Cothen, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, said that Christians are substituting material values of the secular world for the spiritual values of the Christian world.

"We are too much a part of the people we are trying to reach," Cothen declared.

"One of the tragedies of our day," he said, "is that we in the Christian world also have secular values. Christianity has been colored secular.

"We've got to quit kidding ourselves. The world just doesn't care about 'your' church," Cothen said. "We're too much concerned with building 'my' church, and we don't have any. They are all Christ's."

Cothen impressed Southern Baptists with the importance of being different.

"We must have spiritually motivated people whose lives have been changed by the power of Jesus Christ."

Cothen said that the "Christian sales pitch" can be just as misrepresenting as that used to sell aspirin. It can even be fraudulent, he added.

He added that society, including the government, often causes the church to have too much of an economic element in its programs.

"The entire thrust of our government today with the exception of Vietnam," Cothen said, "is an economic thrust. We are in the process of destroying the very thing that made this country what it is.

"If Baptist universities are no different from state universities, then we might as well get out of the education business, sell our universities and give the money to missions.

"I don't care how much our Baptist Sunday School Board does, or how good it is," Cothen said, "if we don't have spiritual rebirth among our people, all they will ever do will be a failure!"

The Sunday School conference was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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