



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

September 21, 1967

BEST Report Gives No
Answers On Federal Aid

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) has ended without solving the question of federal aid to Baptist higher education.

When the BEST Findings Committee presented its report to the SBC Executive Committee, the recording secretary of the Findings Committee, C. R. Daley of Louisville, said:

"The BEST Findings Committee did not understand itself to have been given a mandate to give answers to this problem (federal aid) to the states and the schools."

Daley also said that there is a danger that some groups "might be disappointed in trying to find more than should have been expected to be found (in the report), and therefore feel that they have not been given all that they expected."

Throughout the report, the BEST Findings Committee stated that such decisions should be made by the boards of trustees for each institution, and cautioned against making such decisions on the floor of a convention because such violates accreditation requirements.

Although the Findings Committee did not give a "yes" or "no" answer to the question of federal aid, it did give some guidelines to the boards of trustees and study groups of state conventions as they consider the question. The guidelines stated:

"It must be recognized that there are areas of cooperation as well as separation between church and state...Christians through the years have recognized the importance of varying measures of cooperation between church and state to serve the interests of each and the common ends of both, with care lest either seek to dominate or control the other.

"It is the responsibility of the trustees and their sponsoring bodies, operating under their charters, to investigate and decide such matters for each institution.

"Each program of available federal aid should be investigated and studied carefully. Some institutions may refuse any type of state or federal funds. Others will decide that some types of aid can be accepted conscientiously and legally, and some refused.

"For example, many believe that there is a legitimate distinction between direct federal grants to colleges on the one hand, and amounts available as loans to students and faculty members, research and other grants given for services rendered, and self-liquidating loans where there is no interest subsidy, on the other.

"Those facing the question of the acceptance of federal aid should give careful consideration to (1) our historic principles of freedom of conscience and religious liberty and their important meaning in American life; (2) the preservation of the basic nature and purpose of the Christian college; (3) the maintenance of a broad base of financial support to avoid disproportionate dependence on federal aid.

"Those who accept federal aid should face all of the possible hazards and consequences before taking it. Those who refuse federal aid must realistically devise and carry through the possible and necessary alternatives if the institution is to be properly financed.

"In conclusion...all Baptists must continue to strive to uphold and defend our historic principles of freedom of conscience and religious liberty. Determined to continue in the business of Christian higher education, Baptists must give wholehearted support to their boards of trustees, the presidents, and faculties to whom they have committed this vital part of our service for our Lord."

Earlier, the Findings Committee had observed that all of the discussion about the federal aid question in the meetings of BEST "tended at times to divert attention from the basic question of ways and means for adequate support by the Baptist constituency."

"Because of the greatly increased cost of operating higher (education) institutions, the supporting constituency will need to provide substantially larger funds that they are providing at the present time," the Findings Committee declared.

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The committee also looked askance at establishing new Baptist colleges without adequate financial backing, saying that at least \$20 million is needed to bring a four-year college into full operation with academic excellence. "The proliferation of colleges without adequate support is unwise and is a betrayal of our youth," the committee stated.

Most of the 113-page report was devoted to summations of the results of the two BEST National Study Conferences, and the 24 regional seminars held in 1966 and 1967. The summary of the section on financing offered 12 solutions to financial problems facing Baptist schools.

Among the suggestions were:

---Interpret to the Baptist constituency the nature and cost of Christian higher education;

---Frankly face the high cost of graduate education, with a caution that most Baptist colleges should limit their curriculum to undergraduate work;

---Create a full-time long-range development staff to work cooperatively with churches and state Baptist foundations on trusts, annuities, legacies, and capital funds;

---Enlist members of boards of trustees in helping raise money for the college;

---Strongly emphasize Baptist College and Seminary Day with an opportunity in the churches for a freewill offering for scholarships, half for undergraduate scholarships in the states and half for graduate scholarships through the SBC Education Commission;

---Increase tuition to non-Baptist students and to out-of-state students, although this is probably not a solution for most colleges and states;

---Establish joint study groups from state Executive Boards and college boards of trustees to consider problems of financing in depth;

---Clearly define the purposes and philosophy of each school and publicize these statements widely;

---Sponsor a national colloquium on solutions to financing problems at Baptist schools;

---Honestly and frankly acknowledge the areas on which colleges and other Baptist institutions are accepting assistance, benefits, aids or other subsidies from tax sources;

---And assure students and faculty members of their rights to receive loans, scholarships, research grants, assistantships, joint studies, and other aids to individuals.

In conclusion, the section on financing listed four safeguards as a guide to boards of trustees and conventions on the question of federal aid:

"Be ever mindful of the historic principle of religious liberty; avoid letting availability of federal funds change the purposes of the college; avoid any possibility of outside control over the educational program and religious activities on the campus, and avoid any continuing dependence upon federal funds."

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Golden Gate Names
Hancock Counselor

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has named Charles Hancock of Thomasville, Ga., as assistant supervisor of clinical pastoral education to work with the seminary's programs of pastoral care and urban missions.

For the past year, Hancock was in full-time clinical pastoral education in three different centers: the Presbyterian Hospital in San Francisco, the Napa State Mental Hospital, and the California Youth Authority in Perkins, Calif.

Previously, he was pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Healdsburg, Calif., for 4½ years,

In addition to his supervisory work, Hancock will counsel with seminary students and their families. He will also help develop a pilot program of counseling ministries in the seminary's urban missions programs.

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Final Wrapup

Monday Holidays, Ecumenical
Evangelism Statements Passed

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted statements asking for a study of the effects upon churches of a bill in Congress concerning Monday holidays, and endorsed cooperation in evangelism with all interested Christian groups.

"We believe," said a statement adopted by the Executive Committee, "that Southern Baptists without compromising convictions or polity, should seek opportunity to share evangelistic concerns and insights with all Christian groups seeking to express interest in the field of evangelism.

The statement also suggested that the Home Mission Board evangelism division consider the possibility of calling a conference of evangelism leaders of various Christian denominations in the U.S., and it commended an effort in Atlanta, Ga., to distribute 1 million copies of the New Testament "Today's English Version."

The statement on Monday holidays asked the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington to make a study of the effect of a bill in Congress to schedule certain national holidays on Mondays.

The statement expressed concern that such a bill might "disrupt participation in the ongoing worship and work of churches and thus encourage the secular spirit."

Although the Executive Committee did not endorse or condemn the legislation, it indicated in the statement that long holiday weekends scheduled from Friday through Sunday would be preferable to a Saturday through Monday schedule.

In major actions, the Executive Committee voted to shift the meeting sites for the 1968 and 1969 meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, so that the 1968 convention would be held in Houston and the 1969 convention would be in New Orleans.

Dates for the meetings will be June 3-7, 1968, in Houston; and June 9-13, 1969, in New Orleans.

The action was taken after it was learned that a portion of the roof for the new Rivergate convention hall in New Orleans had collapsed, and it would be impossible to complete construction on the new building before June of 1968.

Most of the three-day meeting of the Executive Committee was devoted to capital needs hearings for 12 SBC agencies, which presented capital needs for the next five years (1968-73) totaling \$37½ million.

The program subcommittee of the Executive Committee will study the needs and report its recommendations to the full Executive Committee in February. The final capital needs budget adopted by the committee must get full convention approval.

The Executive Committee also heard the final reports of the Baptist Education Study Task Findings Committee, and several statistical studies on education, church related vocations, and other such reports.

A recommendation was adopted for referral to the SBC when it meets in Houston proposing that the dates for the 1970 convention in Denver be changed from the week of June 1-5 to the week of June 8-12, in keeping with votes taken at the SBC last year when messengers expressed preference for the second week in June.

The Executive Committee also adopted a proposed 1968 Executive Committee operating budget of \$266,000, and authorized payment of the SBC share in entertaining the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee, and the cost of a study to establish a formula for budget allocations to the seminaries be paid from the operating budget.

It also commended the idea of several Baptist agencies establishing an exhibit at the HemisFair to be held in San Antonio, Tex., in 1968, but asked the agencies involved to make their own decisions about participation in the exhibit.

A resolution was also adopted commending the way in which Baptists rallied to the aid of the flood-stricken people of Fairbanks, Alaska.

It specifically expressed appreciation to the SBC Home Mission Board, the SBC Brotherhood Commission, and the SBC Sunday School Board, to about 100 skilled craftsmen who volunteered their services to assist the churches in Fairbanks, to the airlines which flew them to Alaska and to the Civil Aeronautics Board for authorizing the airlines to provide the service.

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"We likewise convey to the Baptists of Alaska, and to those of the Fairbanks area in particular, our continued prayers and concern as they move on in their witness in this growing state," said the resolution.

The Executive Committee also authorized a self-liquidating \$215,000 mortgage to finance ten faculty housing units at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and assigned several studies to the Inter-Agency Council of the SBC.

Tribute was paid to J. W. Storer, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Foundation, during a special ceremony; and a portrait of Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee for 16 years, was unveiled to hang along with the portraits of other executive secretaries.

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Executive Committee
Honors J. W. Storer

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention paid tribute here to former SBC President and Foundation Executive J. W. Storer as both denominational leader and Baptist wit.

While the presentation was in progress, the 83-year-old Baptist leader kept the committee members in laughter with his witticisms.

The laughter started when Kendall Berry, Storer's successor as head of the Southern Baptist Foundation, presented him with a composite photo and poem he had entitled "The Old Man", prefacing it with remarks that in other countries, older people are honored and the phrase "old man" is an honored term.

Storer, a spry and energetic man, stooped and feigned trembles as he accepted the portrait.

Then W. C. Boone, former executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention who said J. W. Storer had been his best friend for 50 years, reminisced about his friend, and brought laughter when he remarked:

"I'd rather be called 'old man' than 'senior citizen.' Of all the sissy things, I know of, 'senior citizen' is about the worst."

In a more serious light, Boone said that Storer "expresses himself as nobody else does," and that "he combines a real sense of wit and humor with real pure distilled wisdom. God has given him one of the keenest minds I've ever known," Boone said.

H. Franklin Paschall, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville where Storer is a member, called him "a Christian gentleman, a Baptist statesman, a very outstanding pastor, and a loyal and effective denominational leader.

"He is a man full of fun, full of faith, and full of fire," Paschall said. "He is a wit, a whole wit, and a humorist par excellence."

Then Paschall presented to Storer and his wife an engraved silver bowl, paying tribute to Storer "for distinguished Christian service." The presentation was authorized earlier this year by the SBC Executive Committee and the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach.

In accepting it, Storer quipped: "Thank you, and I hand it over to Mrs. Storer who has to do the dusting of it."

Mrs. Storer quipped in return, "I have to live with this." Then she added: "Now I can serve him bean soup in style."

Storer expressed appreciation for the gift and the tribute, but said he was only human like everyone else. "We're all moon-men," he added. "There's a dark side to each one of us."

Storer laughed over being called an "old man," and added that he'd also been called an "emeritus." That term, he said "has the connotation of a long narrow blanket of lilies of the valley."

He said he'd rather be called a "calm observer." He added that some of the things, however, that he observes about Baptists do not contribute to calmness.

Storer said he is often asked what he is going to do now that he is retired, and he said this reminds him of the story of the beautiful young girl who had applied for a job at a hospital. She was so beautiful the board was afraid she would quit to get married.

When the board chairman asked, "What do you plan to do when you leave here," the pretty young thing fluttered her eyes and replied, "Well, I had planned to go straight home."

Storer said he planned to go straight home and "just try to enjoy the pleasures that come to me, and to wish all men everywhere the very best of life."

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