



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

September 27, 1967

816

854

South Carolina Baptists
To Consider Federal Aid

By Jim Newton

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--When the South Carolina Baptist Convention meets here Nov. 14-16, it will consider a two-year study of a special committee which recommends that, in effect, the door be left open for South Carolina Baptist institutions to accept federal aid.

The Federal Aid Study Committee, however, did not endorse federal loans or grants for building purposes or any other type of federal aid. It made it clear, however, that it would not forbid them.

In the final analysis, the committee's report leaves the decision as to what type of federal aid would be acceptable in the hands of the boards of trustees for each institution, something which the nation-wide Baptist Education Study Committee had advocated only one week earlier in its final report.

The committee recommended five "safeguards" for the trustees to use in deciding what types of aid to accept, and also asked the institutions to make an annual report to the convention on the types of government assistance it is receiving.

"Since our administrators have enjoyed a healthy relationship with the government, we do not feel that we should intensify their crisis by requesting them to forfeit or curtail this form of assistance," said the committee report concerning federal aid.

"...Every institution could, in the light of its purposes, decide which programs would be in its best interest. Also, due to the multiplicity of types, it is virtually impossible for this committee to decide which ones might be acceptable or objectionable.

"...We firmly believe that, in meeting the needs of our citizens, a cooperative ministry of church and state in which neither attempts to control the other is possible without an infringement upon our traditional beliefs. Cooperation need not destroy separation," the committee report stated.

The 17-member committee will make its report to the South Carolina Baptist Convention as the final item of business when it meets here Nov. 14-16. It will also report its findings to the convention's General Board as a matter of information on Oct. 9-10. Final approval must come from the convention.

The committee was appointed in 1965 after a storm of controversy raged in South Carolina when Furman University in Greenville accepted a \$611,898 federal grant for construction of a science building. The state convention ordered Furman to return the money, pledging to raise the amount from Baptist sources instead. Since then, only about half of the money has been raised.

The convention also declared a moratorium on federal aid to South Carolina Baptist institutions until after the 17-member study committee has completed its report to the convention.

The study committee, in its four-page printed report, listed specific ways that South Carolina Baptist institutions receive tax support and benefits, pointing out "that there is not now--nor has there ever been--a complete separation (of church and state)."

Citing a "great financial crisis" in Baptist schools in South Carolina, the committee said that contributions from South Carolina Baptists through the Cooperative Program budget have not kept up proportionately with the mounting costs of the operation.

"It seems an incontrovertible fact that the financial support today is insufficient," said the committee. "The years ahead will demand radical revision upward of our Baptist dollars or our institutions will become second or third-rate.

-more-

816

The committee then made a case for allowing the boards of trustees for each institution to decide for itself what types of federal aid it is to accept.

"Instead of trying to categorize the types of assistance we should accept or reject, we believe that the convention's real concern lies in the extent of involvement with the government as a source of income, on the one hand, and the nature of the control that may accompany assistance, on the other," said the committee.

Stating that fear of government control that might come with federal aid is deeply ingrained in Baptists, the committee added that it found "no evidence of the government's desire to control institutional life."

The committee listed four alternatives which said in short: (1) that the convention assume full financial responsibility for its institutions, (2) that all government aid be rejected, (3) that the institutions be released from denominational control and ownership, and (4) that the current policy of accepting federal aid with discrimination be continued.

It was the last alternative that the committee endorsed, recommending that the "institutions be permitted to negotiate with government agencies for available financial assistance with the following safeguards:"

In summary, the safeguards included: (1) guard against entanglements which would limit the freedom of the institution; (2) keep consistent the aid accepted with the stated purposes of the institution; (3) maintain religious liberty and study regulations attached which might include undesirable control; (4) keep all aid in conformity to the convention's financial plan; and (5) guard against dependence on government aid.

The committee also recommended that all its agencies and institutions receiving government assistance to report annually on such aid to the convention and its General Board.

"We further recommend that this convention promote a vigorous program of stewardship of finances to meet the expanding obligations and opportunities of our institutional ministry," said the committee.

The 17-member committee was composed of eight ministers and nine laymen.

-30-

Atlanta, Dallas Stores
To Manage Assembly Outlets

817

9/27/67

252

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Baptist Book Stores in Dallas and Atlanta will assume responsibility for management of the book stores at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Assemblies Oct. 1, Keith Von Hagen announced here.

Von Hagen, book store division director for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the Dallas and Atlanta stores had been chosen because of their size and location.

Control of the Glorieta book store will be transferred to the combined Dallas-Fort Worth operation in Arlington when it opens about April 1, 1968. Atlanta will manage the Ridgecrest store.

Von Hagen said the stores in the two cities, because of their size and proximity to the assemblies, would be able to absorb the assembly store inventories each fall.

"This will give better inventory turn-over and will allow us to give better service to our Dallas and Atlanta customers," Von Hagen said.

Under the new system, he said, the Ridgecrest and Glorieta stores will become branch outlets of the stores in Atlanta and Dallas. The stores at the assemblies operate only during the summer months and will send their inventories to the cities when the assembly season is over.

Mrs. Imogene Greer, presently manager of the Fort Worth store, will be in charge of operations at Glorieta. She will become assistant to manager Arnold A. Durbin in the new Arlington store. Durbin is now manager of the Dallas store.

Von Hagen said an assistant to Atlanta manager Robert Mendenhall will be named to handle the Ridgecrest operations.

The Dallas and Atlanta stores are two of 49 Baptist book stores owned and operated by the Sunday School Board, located in Nashville.

-30-

817

September 27, 1967

3

Baptist Press

818
Reynolds Named Indiana
Sunday School Secretary

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Lew Reynolds of Memphis, Tenn., has been named Sunday School secretary for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, effective Oct. 1.

Reynolds is now minister of education at Frayser Baptist Church, Memphis.

In addition to directing Sunday School work, he will have responsibilities in church architecture, Vacation Bible School, and church library promotion.

A native of Georgia, Reynolds is a graduate of Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

-30-

Floodwaters Rage Into
Valley Churches, Homes

819
9/27/67

By Al Morgan
Baptist Press Staff Writer

HARLINGEN, Tex. (BP)--Although most Texas Baptist churches suffered light damage in the wake of Hurricane Beulah's devastation, Rio Grande floodwaters promised to add untold costs to already damaged facilities.

A week after Beulah's devastating 160-m.p.h. blow, floodwaters from a broken division dam on the Arroyo Colorado swirled into Harlingen, sweeping homes off foundations and sending thousands fleeing to higher ground.

A second dam break in two days sent tons of water running uncontrolled through the Rio Grande River Valley.

Language Missionary Jerry Johnson of the Lower Rio Grande Baptist Association in Harlingen was forced from his office by rising water. He reported "at least 15 churches underwater," in his association and adjoining Magic Valley Baptist Association.

Johnson said "families have been wiped out in this latest disaster" which sent 10,000 persons fleeing Harlingen, which apparently has been the hardest hit by floodwaters. Johnson said the greatest need appears to be bedding for men, women and children who lost their own in the flood.

"Money, too, will become a great need as families return to pick up where they were before the flooding," added Johnson who feels the economy will be effected as a result.

Efforts to determine damage and financial loss to Baptists from Beulah were hampered by the new flooding, according to T. A. Patterson, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, who said, "it will be sometime now before final reports can be made and assessment of damages ascertained."

He also pointed out that there "is a need for churches to adopt churches, families to adopt families and cities to adopt cities."

Executive Board members going to the scene earlier to aid churches and families were forced to leave the Valley in the face of the new flooding.

The three men representing the convention's disaster relief committee were Darwin Farmer, secretary of the direct missions department; and Taylor Pendley, secretary, and Ed L. Clark, consultant, in the church building department.

Farmer said "drastic steps will be necessary to aid flood victims."

"God is providing Baptist churches and Baptist church members with an unprecedented opportunity to become personally involved as Christians," added Farmer. "We need to search our homes and see if we have anything of value that someone else can use."

Pendley said that emergency relief funds initially sent with the team to meet physical needs has already been placed with special committees in the Lower Rio Grande, Magic Valley, Coastal Bend and Blanco Baptist Associations.

Pendley added the team will return to the Valley as soon as waters recede in order to assess damages.

-more-

818-819

Meanwhile, Patterson said area missionaries have been asked to contact their churches for clothing, canned goods and furniture. Special instructions told volunteers how to mark and classify items. Baptist associations were asked to supply a collection point for shipment to the Valley for distribution.

A Baptist emergency relief center for distribution of collected items in the old Valley Baptist Academy had to be abandoned when floodwaters hit Harlingen. The Center was shifted to the Othal Brank Warehouse at 2600 Beech St., McAllen, Tex.

Throughout the hurricane and the later flooding, Baptist pastors made a valiant effort to minister to Beulah's victims as well as those caught in the flood.

Although not sure of their own personal safety as hurricane winds and torrential rains pounded their cities, many pastors worked with their missionaries in unlocking church doors to offer sanctuary to thousands of persons who fled their homes.

Across a 150-mile gutted path carved out by unpredictable Beulah, residents faced shambles. Large plate glass windows had exploded inward and outward and clogged drains forced raging waters into streets, stores and homes even before dams broke releasing new destruction upon residents.

The hurricane, which spawned over 40 tornadoes and left millions of dollars of damage to crops, buildings and homes, provided an emergency ministry to pastors.

Johnson was one of those who remained to help coordinate relief. Another pastor, Lester Vinson of Los Vecinos Baptist Mission in Harlingen, supplied living quarters for many families and served as a temporary Red Cross representative for food distribution in his immediate locale, until floodwaters entered the mission.

Another pastor working around the clock providing safe sanctuary for residents was Matias Quintanilla, Southmost Baptist Mission, Brownsville. He also took advantage of the opportunity of having so many people in his church and conducted several evangelistic services throughout the church's many rooms.

The pattern of pastors ministering to the total needs of the community repeated itself many times.

Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen opened its doors to anyone needing assistance. No attempt was made to make charges to patients seeking emergency help, reported a spokesman.

And, before flood waters once again closed roads, hospital administrator Henry Morrison took a team of five nurses to Port Isabel, Tex., where national guardsmen and residents were inoculated against typhoid and tetanus.

Morrison pointed out severe dysentery and related illnesses are anticipated because sanitation problems created by sewerage and water supply damage throughout the storm's area.

-30-

BP PHOTO to be mailed to state Baptist paper editors from Texas Regional Office of BP.

#



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

820

546

September 27, 1967

Dear State Paper Editor:

For your information, attached is the text of the statement on ecumenical evangelism adopted by the SBC Executive Committee.

It is a little unclear whether this is the final word from the Executive Committee on this proposal, or whether the study will continue. There will, however, be a report brought to the SBC when it meets in Houston, regardless.

Sincerely,

Jim Newton
Assistant Director

JN:bc

820

STATEMENT ON EVANGELISTIC CONCERN
By the SBC Executive Committee

The Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions organized in 1886, had as its watchword, "The evangelization of the world in this generation."

Under the dynamic leadership of John R. Mott, the Student Volunteer Movement sent out about 2,000 missionary volunteers in its first fifteen years, and, by the time of the 1902 Convention in Toronto, involved more than fifteen hundred student organizations and 70,000 members.

Mott underlined the motivation in the 1902 Convention when he said, "There is an element of immediacy about the command of Jesus Christ that has never adequately possessed a generation since the first generation of Christians. It is a simple proposition. The Christians now living must take Christ to the non-Christians now living if they are ever to hear of him. The Christians who are dead cannot do it; the Christians who are to come after us cannot do it. Obviously, each generation of Christians must evangelize its own generation of non-Christians if Christ is to see the travail of his soul and be satisfied with reference to that particular generation."

Within recent years, there has been a rebirth of this sense of urgency in the field of evangelism. Our Convention and our Southern Baptist churches which have long held that evangelism must be woven into the very fabric of every phase of Southern Baptist life, have intensified their efforts on many levels. This sense of urgency is at the center of and is the heartbeat of the Crusade of the Americas sponsored by Baptists of the western hemisphere; it is reflected in the forthcoming National Conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Crusade; it found some expression by the Roman Catholics in Vatican II; it was expressed in a World Congress on Evangelism sponsored by Billy Graham and Christianity Today; it was a center of consideration at the recent Colloquium on Evangelism at Notre Dame, under the sponsorship of the National Council of Churches; it will be on the agenda at the 1968 Conference at Uppsala, Sweden, sponsored by the World Council of Churches.

This concern that Southern Baptists should share their interest in evangelism--and this includes living the gospel as well as teaching and preaching the gospel--has been expressed frequently in Southern Baptist life. It found expression in a motion presented by Alastair Walker at the recent session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach and in the substitute motion by Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs which referred the matter for study and report to the Executive Committee.

We make the following recommendations:

1. We commend such campaigns as are now being waged by Christians working together in Atlanta, Georgia, to distribute one million copies of "Good News for Modern Man," a new translation in modern English of the New Testament, published by the American Bible Society. We believe the Bible should be the foundation stone for any real evangelistic concern.
2. We believe 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. We pray that we might be blessed and be a blessing by such discussions.
3. Since the Home Mission Board has the program assignment in evangelism, we suggest they, through their evangelism division, might consider calling a conference of evangelism leaders of various Christian denominations in the United States, seeking to discover ways and means that there might be a resurgence of spiritual power in the nation to the end that men might be brought to God through Jesus Christ.